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NEW DELHI • PUNE

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Kejriwal takes a jibe at Tiwari over NRC

NEW DELHI
Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took a dig against BJP State chief Manoj Tiwari here on Wednesday, saying if the National Register of Citizens was implemented in the Capital, the Bhojpuri singer-turned-politician would be the first to leave the city.

CIT 7 | PAGE 3

PM's economic advisory council reconstituted

NEW DELHI
The government on Wednesday announced that it had reconstituted the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council for a period of two years. The council would have two part-time members apart from the two full-time members. Two dissenting members, Rathin Roy and Shikha Ravi, have not been retained.

BUSINESS | PAGE 15

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Higher Education Bill in winter session

HECI to take over regulatory functions

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

A Bill that aims to create a single regulator for higher education, replacing the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), is likely to be introduced in the winter session of Parliament.

It proposes to bring almost all areas of higher education – including technical, architectural and legal courses – under the ambit of a single umbrella body. Medical education, however, will not come under the proposed Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), according to the draft Bill.

The new version of the legislation has also removed a controversial proposal to move grant disbursal authority from autonomous bo-

dies and bring it directly under the control of the Human Resource Development Minister. Instead, a new autonomous body will be created to supervise the doling out of funds to higher education institutions, according to a senior Ministry official.

UGC and AICTE are autonomous bodies which oversee the accreditation, regulation and maintenance of teaching, examination and research standards for universities and technical education institutions across the country. These academic functions will now be moved to the new HECI, as proposed in the draft Bill.

However, AICTE and UGC are also responsible for disbursing public funds to Universities and colleges.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12



Big drive: The discounts range from ₹50,000 to ₹1,50,000 depending on the car brand. ►PTI

car maker, has cut prices of several models by ₹5,000 to pass on the benefit of reduction in corporate tax by the government. This is apart from the discounts being offered by the company and its

President under scanner

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi launched a formal impeachment inquiry against U.S. President Donald Trump

The focus: The impeachment inquiry focuses partly on whether Trump abused his presidential powers and sought help from a foreign government to undermine Democratic foe Joe Biden and help his own re-election



The confrontation: The impeachment inquiry, after months of investigations by House Democrats of the Trump administration, sets up the party's most direct and consequential confrontation with the President

The impact: The decision injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation's constitutional system of checks and balances

There has been no President in the history of our country who has been treated so badly as I have. The Democrats are frozen with hatred and fear. They get nothing done. This should never be allowed to happen to another President. Witch Hunt! DONALD TRUMP, ON TWITTER

heart followed reports that Mr. Trump had pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a July 25 telephone call to investigate Mr. Biden, the former U.S. Vice-President, and his son Hunter Biden, who had worked for a company drilling for gas in Ukraine.

Scrutiny over their conversation is expected to intensify on Wednesday as Mr. Trump is scheduled to meet the Ukrainian leader alongside a UN meeting in New

York and later take questions from the media.

On Tuesday, Mr. Trump said he would release a transcript of the call.

Mr. Trump has said he discussed Mr. Biden and his son in the call, but denied putting any pressure on the Ukrainian leader despite his administration's withholding of nearly \$400 million in military aid approved for Kiev by the Congress.

ANOTHER REPORT ► PAGE 14

60% girls in Delhi colleges anaemic

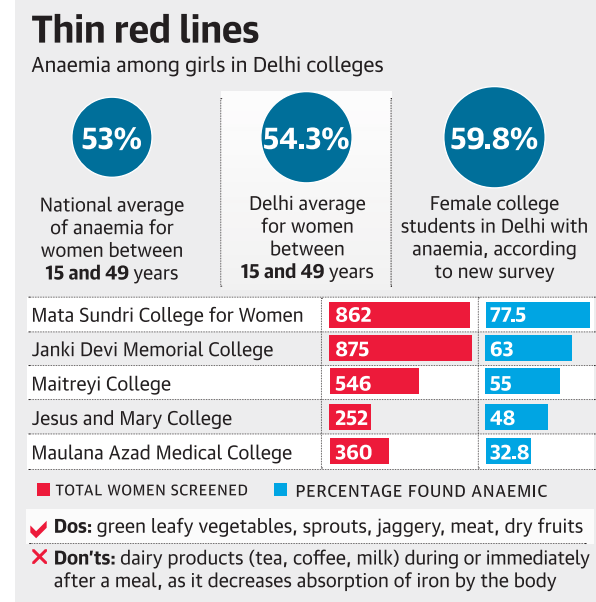
Detection camps at 12 colleges show incidence higher than national average

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

When 18-year-old Anu (name changed) stood in a queue at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College for a blood test, she had no idea that she would be detected with “severe” anaemia, which is risky, according to doctors. “I never thought I had anaemia. I did not feel any of its symptoms,” she said.

About 60% of female students in Delhi colleges are anaemic – well above the national average – according to an analysis of data collected from ongoing anaemia detection and awareness camps of the Delhi government accessed by *The Hindu*. The findings, which are yet to be made public, are based on tests on a total of 5,224 female students in 12 city colleges, of whom 3,128 (59.9%) were found to be anaemic.

The national average of



anaemia among women between 15 and 49 years is 53% and in Delhi it's 54.3%, according to National Family Health Survey-4.

While the national average came down from 55.3%

Modi pitches for India's NSG entry

‘Since we are not a member, we can't get fuel for producing nuclear energy’

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
NEW YORK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a pitch for India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) here on Wednesday, as he addressed a largely business gathering in the Bloomberg Global Business Forum where he delivered the key-note address.

The comments were made during a Q&A session with former New York City Mayor and businessman, Michael Bloomberg.

“One challenge that is before us today is that of nuclear energy, because, since we are not a member of the NSG, we do not really have the ability to get the fuel for



Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and PM Narendra Modi speaking at the Bloomberg Global Business Forum. ■AP

producing nuclear energy,” Mr. Modi said, as part of an answer on climate change and India's energy needs.

“If we were to get that opportunity, we could perhaps be a model in this area for the world,” he said.

The NSG controls most of the world's nuclear trade. While the U.S. and other countries support India's entry into the NSG, China has opposed it saying India has not signed the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. India

Two Dalit boys beaten to death in M.P. village

They defecated in the open on the way to their grandparents' place

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

The Shivpuri police have arrested two persons for allegedly beating to death two Dalit children for defecating in the open in their village in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday morning.

“At 6 a.m., as the children, aged 11 and 12, were passing through Bhavkhedi village in Sirsod police station limits, brothers Hakim Singh Yadav and Rameshwar Yadav hit them on their heads with lathis, killing

them,” said Rajesh Singh Chandel, Shivpuri Superintendent of Police.

Inspector General (Gwalior Range) Raja Babu Singh confirmed the circumstances of their death. “On the way to their grandparents' place, they defecated in the open. This led to the fatal beating.”

The IG said one of the accused started beating them and they died on the spot. “Villagers rushed to help the boys but it was too late.”

On a complaint by the

father of a victim, police registered a case under Section 302 [punishment for murder] of the Indian Penal Code and relevant Sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Villagers told the police that Hakim had undergone treatment for a mental illness in the past.

Ruling out a community angle at this point, Mr. Chandel said, “Although Yadavs are dominant in the area, there is no history of ani-

mosity between the two communities.”

However, a local policeman, requesting anonymity, said the accused held a grudge against the victims' families.

“Two years ago, they had reportedly taken wood from the field of the accused to build a hut,” he added.

The bodies were taken to hospital for post-mortem.

BSP president Mayawati said the murder of the two boys was “extremely sad and condemnable.”

U.P. law student held in extortion case

She had accused ex-Minister of rape

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The law student from Shahjahanpur in U.P. who accused former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand of rape was on Wednesday arrested by the Special Investigation Team in an extortion case filed by him.

The student's family alleged that the SIT team “dragged her” out of their house without any proper notice or procedure and also misbehaved with the family members.

Enough evidence

The police, however, said they had enough evidence, specifically a video clip, to establish that the law student and her three friends tried to extort ₹5 crore from Mr. Chinmayanand.

The arrest happened 24 hours before a local court was to hear her application

for anticipatory bail.

After the mandatory medical examination, she was sent to 14 days in judicial custody by additional chief judicial magistrate Vineet Pandey. A fresh bail plea filed by her lawyer was rejected.

Bharti Singh, an officer of the SIT, said during questioning the law student had ‘confessed’ that along with her three male friends she had planned the extortion against Mr. Chinmayanand and sent him messages demanding ₹5 crore.

The other three, Sanjay Singh, Sachin Sengar and Vikram alias Durgesh, were arrested earlier. The four have been booked for extortion, disappearance of evidence and criminal intimidation, among other sections.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

It's raining discounts for vehicle buyers

Automobile manufacturers roll out the red carpet to buyers to clear inventory

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Facing a slump, the automobile industry is offering heavy discounts to entice passenger car and two-wheeler buyers. The benefits, including exchange bonus and discounts, range from ₹50,000 to ₹1,50,000 depending on the brand and the manufacturer. But these schemes will not apply to newly launched cars and SUVs. Tata Motors, for example, is offering benefits of up to ₹1.5 lakh while Hyundai's benefits range from ₹65,000-95,000 depending on the model.

Maruti Suzuki, the biggest



Big drive: The discounts range from ₹50,000 to ₹1,50,000 depending on the car brand. ►PTI

car maker, has cut prices of several models by ₹5,000 to pass on the benefit of reduction in corporate tax by the government. This is apart from the discounts being offered by the company and its

dealers.

Two-wheeler maker Bajaj Auto has already advertised benefits of up to ₹7,200 per motorcycle while Honda Motorcycles is planning to announce its scheme shortly.

Car sales have been declining for nine months, and last month the passenger vehicle sales had dropped by around 40% causing concern. Automakers are saddled with unsold stock at factories and dealerships and with the GST Council not reducing rates on automobiles, manufacturers are dropping prices and rolling out the red carpet to buyers to clear their

inventory.

Even luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz India has joined the benefits party. It has introduced mobility solutions ‘Wishbox’ which is a compilation of customised financial solutions to help customers buy a new car. These include low or zero down payment. The exact benefits could not be established.

Hyundai Motor India is offering benefits of up to ₹95,000 on Grand i10, ₹65,000 on Elite i20, ₹65,000 on Santro and ₹80,000 on Creta, besides offering four years extended warranty.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

10 killed as oil tanker hits auto in Jind

Eight of them were returning from Army recruitment drive

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Ten people, including eight young men returning home from an Army recruitment camp, were killed in Haryana's Jind on Tuesday night when a speeding oil tanker collided with the autorickshaw they were travelling in near Ramrai village. One person was injured.

The men, aged between 18 and 21, had gone to Hisar for medical examination as part of the recruitment drive. On their way back, they had boarded an autorickshaw. The oil tanker hit the vehicle on Hansi Road,



Relatives of the deceased waiting outside the mortuary in Jind. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

around 8 km from Jind city, around 10 p.m., killing 10 people on the spot. The auto driver and a local passenger were among the dead.

“While the oil tanker was speeding, the autorick-

shaw was overloaded. It seems the tanker driver hit the autorickshaw head-on in a bid to avoid the potholes on the road,” said Jind SP Ashwin. Tanker driver Bachu Khan, a resident of Barmer in Rajasthan, fled after the accident. He was arrested on Wednesday.

The police team had a tough time pulling out the auto from under the tanker. The tanker was lifted with the help of two cranes. The victims included brothers, Sanjay and Parminder, from Badtna village. While Sanjay died, Parminder suffered grave injuries.

Delhi tenants to get free electricity

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Tenants in the Capital will now get free electricity up to 200 units under a new Delhi government scheme.

Tenants will also be entitled to get prepaid power meters installed at the rented properties which will supply electricity at subsidised rates under the “Mukhyamantri Kirayedar Power Meter Yojana”, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Wednesday.

DEATILS ON ► PAGE 2



Metro services on Yellow Line disrupted

NEW DELHI
Services on the Delhi Metro's Yellow Line were disrupted for near y an hour on Wednesday, following a signallir g issue which took place near the HUDA City Centre metro station, said Delhi Metro Rail Corporation spokesperson. Services were hit between HUDA City Centre and Qutub Minar, he said. "Services between HUDA C ty Centre and Qutub Minar section were affected between 9.45 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. due to track circuit drop [signalling issue] at HUDA City Centre, leading to delay in reversal of trains," the DMRC spokesperson said.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	90	Gurgaon	42
Ghaziabad	84	Faridabad	56
Greater Noida	92	Noida	74
Legend: Good (0-50), Satisfactory (51-100), Moderate (101-200), Poor (201-300), Very poor (301-400), Severe (>401)			
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

Make policy to deal with stray animals: HC to govt.

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the AAP government and the municipal corporations to make a policy for controlling the population of monkeys, stray cattle and dogs on city roads ar d court premises. A Bench of Chief Justice D.N Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar asked the Delhi government and the civic bodies to constitute a committee, if required, to make the scheme or policy. PTI

IIT-D declares winners of Alumni Award 2019

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, on Wednesday announced that it will be presenting its Distinguished Alumni Award 2019, to Srinivasan Keshav, Professor at Cheriton School of Computer Science at the University of Waterloo, Mohit Aron, founder and CEO of Cohesity and Binny Bansal, co-founder, Flipkart. The award will be presented at the 50th convocation ceremony of IIT, Delhi, on November 2.

The award will be presented to Arun Duggal, chairman of ICRA Ltd., Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited and International Asset Reconstruction Company and Amarjit Singh Bakshi, chairman and managing director of the Bakshi Group a Delhi-based business conglomerate and a first-generation entrepreneur.

Announcing the awards, IIT-D director V. Ramgopal Rao said the institute has has over 50,000 alumni right row and many of them have done exceedingly well in their chosen professions and brought a glory to the institute and the country.

DELHI TODAY

Exhibitio 1: "Horizon", a solo painting exhibition by Brajagopal Paul at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibitio 1: "Man Mai Han Dilli", an exhibition of watercolours by Krishnendu Chatterjee at Delhi o' Delhi Foyer, Ind a Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibitio 1: "It Was Never Concrete", a solo show of Ayesha Singh at Shrine Empire Gallery, D 395, Defence Colony, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibitio 1: "Rooted" a group art show at Gallery Espace, 16 Community Centre, New Friends Colony, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibitio 1: "Art N Art", a group exhibition of painting, sculpture and photography, art and craft, organised by Na/ Shri Art & Culture Organisation at Artizen Art Gallery, Pearey Lal Bhawan, Bahadur Shahi Zafar Marg, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

Delhi tenants to get free electricity up to 200 units

They can apply for installation of prepaid meters at rented accommodation to get power supply at subsidised rates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Tenants in the Capital will now get free electricity up to 200 units under a new Delhi government scheme which will allow them to install prepaid meters, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Wednesday.

Tenants, who constitute over half of the city's population of over 2 crore according to government estimates, will also be entitled to get prepaid power meters installed at rented properties which will supply electricity at subsidised rates under the "Mukhyamantri Kirayedar Power Meter Yojana", Mr. Kejriwal announced at a press conference here.

Under the scheme, tenants will be able to avail the benefits of free electricity up to 200 units as well as the subsidy for consumers using 200-400 units per month. The meters will be installed only on domestic consumer properties, the Delhi government said.

No-objection certificate
"Tenants, so far, were not able to get a separate power meter because they were required to take a no-objection certificate [NoC] from the homeowner to get an independent connection. Tenants will now get a meter using just two documents: rent agreement/receipt or any identity card," said the Chief Minister.

"These meters will also

More power to tenants

- Tenants can now apply for installation of prepaid power meters at their rented property
- They can avail of the scheme by submitting copies of either rent agreement or rent receipts along with a proof of residence
- The scheme will allow tenants to avail of benefits of free electricity up to **200 units** as well as subsidy for consumers using **200-400 units** per month

Helpline numbers for the installation of prepaid meters:

- BSES Yamuna **19122**
- BSES Rajdhani **19123**
- Tata Power **19124**

The intent of the scheme is to provide benefits to this other category of multiple tenants living in separate dwelling units at the same property, such as those belonging to the lower middle class in unauthorised colonies in Delhi
ARVIND KEJRIWAL, Delhi Chief Minister

Declaration of the scheme without taking into consideration different aspects is likely to have an adverse impact. The scheme is unlikely to benefit most of the tenants as they are unorganised and without evidence of tenancy
VIJENDER GUPTA, Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly

have stickers bearing the name of the scheme," he said.

While those incurring bills for consumption up to 200 units are exempted from paying the bill, if the consumption is between 201 to 400 units, half the subsidy is being given.

The cost of these meters, Mr. Kejriwal said, will be the same as incurred by property owners applying for domestic power connections in Delhi. "There are two kinds of tenants in Delhi: those who live in flats or properties which already have power

connections and those who do not have such connections," he said.

"The intent of the scheme is to provide benefits to this other category of multiple tenants living in separate dwelling units at the same property, such as those belonging to the lower middle class, especially at unauthorised colonies in Delhi," he further said.

There is only one power meter for properties with many tenants, Mr. Kejriwal elaborated, which results in high power unit consumption which further leads to

"huge electricity bills".

Beneficial to landlords

"The landlord charges tenants ₹8-₹10 per unit. With separate connections, many tenants will now get free electricity. On the other hand, the landlord is also likely to get the benefit of subsidy on unit consumption for up to 400 units. The scheme is beneficial to the tenant as well as to the landlord," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Outgoing tenants, who pay ₹3,000 as security for such connections will be able to reclaim the security

Architects express concerns over Central Vista revamp plan

'Govt. is trying to alter a major landmark in a hasty manner'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Several associations of architects met on Wednesday to discuss the redevelopment plan for the Central Vista and Parliament Building that the Central government has mooted.

The architects said that the government was in a "hasty and unplanned manner" trying to alter a major national landmark like the Central Vista and the Parliament House.

Design brief
The architects expressed concern that the design brief in the tender document released by the CPWD did not contain any data or inputs which are required for planning a project of

such nature and was "extremely vague and open ended".

Bidder selection

The architects said that they have written to the Minister concerned and also to the CPWD to conduct an open-design competition as per existing norms but have received no response so far. They also said that the methodology of selection of the lowest bidder was a cause for concern. "Would we be willing to go for the lowest bidder in the case of other professionals like doctors and lawyers," the architects questioned.

The architects added that it was deeply disturbing that the rich cultural heritage, in one of the most environ-

mentally sensitive areas of the country and serving as a symbol of iconic value for the entire country, is sought to be altered in such a meretricious manner.

Advisory team

The Northern Chapter of the Indian Institute of Architects demanded that an advisory team be formed from eminent professions, including architects, urban designers, historians and other associated fields to lay out a road map and prepare a comprehensive design brief for the development of the area.

They warned that failing to do so would be an open invitation for an unmitigated cultural and environmental disaster.

Make rules for regulation of banquet halls: NGT

'Delhi govt. may also consult CPCB'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi government to formulate guidelines pertaining to the regulation of banquet halls across the city, while stating that violation of environmental norms has an adverse effect on public health.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "The Delhi government may also have consultation with the Central Pollution Control Board and within a broad framework of pan-India guidelines, the government can have its own guidelines to suit the local requirements to mitigate the adverse impact on environment and public health in the light of the orders already passed by the tribunal."

The observations came following the State government's submission that a noise regulatory mechanism was developed and norms for waste disposal and installation of CCTV cameras were laid down.

The Bench observed, "The action plan also covers regulation of extraction of



groundwater, rainwater harvesting, regulation of size of gatherings and action against unauthorised establishments and recovery of environmental compensation."

The directions came while the panel was hearing a plea moved by Westend Green Farms Society which alleged that banquets and marriage halls operating in Mahipalpur and Rajokri near the international airport, were causing vehicular congestion and pollution.

Earlier, the NGT had directed forfeiture of a performance guarantee of ₹5 crore deposited by the Delhi government, while observing that the compliance report furnished by the government was not satisfactory.

AAP govt.'s policy seeks to discourage surface parking

To dissuade long-duration parking, on-street parking fee will be increased according to the time spent

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has notified its parking policy which seeks to discourage surface parking across the Capital. It prohibits parking on footpaths and allows civic agencies to prepare a plan for parking in residential areas.

The rules not only provide for two times higher parking fee for on-street parking compared to off-street park-

ing, but also propose increase in on-street parking fee to discourage long duration of surface parking.

In addition to allowing for "appropriate tax measures" to be adopted by civic agencies, the rules also provide for strict measures against vehicles not parked in compliance with the rules.

According to the Delhi Maintenance and Management of Parking Places Rules,

2019, which were notified on September 23, the civic bodies will consider developing open areas near residential colonies as parking lots only on payment basis.

"On all lanes and streets, a lane must be earmarked for unhindered movement of emergency vehicles like ambulances, fire tenders, police vehicles, etc. No parking shall be allowed on this lane," the policy states.

Green panel issues show-cause notices to hotel and hospital in Ghaziabad

NGT was hearing a plea alleging encroachments in the area

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging illegal encroachments in green belts in the National Capital Region, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday issued show-cause notices to a five-star hotel and a hospital in Ghaziabad.

A Bench headed by NGT judicial member Justice Raghuvendra S. Rathore issued notices to Radisson Blu, Angel Mega Mall, Yashoda Super Speciality hospital and Dabur India Limited in

Sahibabad. "The registry is directed to issue notices to these respondents by [Thursday] positively. Further, they are directed along with the notice, a copy of the report of the court commissioner be also sent and a reference of the same be made in the notice itself."

Compliance status

The directions came after the panel took note of a report filed by the court commissioner, who was earlier appointed by the NGT, for a

check on the status of compliance of a previous order over encroachments in Ghaziabad.

The Bench was hearing a plea filed by advocate Shariq Abbas Zaidi who alleged that the tribunal's February 8 order, in which it had directed the Ghaziabad civic body to clear encroachments, was not complied with. The petitioner had sought action against encroachments in the green belt and unscientific dumping of waste by the civic body.

Govt. scheme will lead to disputes: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alleged the "Mukhyamantri Kirayedar Bijali Meter Yojna", which seeks to extend the benefits of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's power subsidy to tenants, had been announced without any preparation or road map.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta argued that this too, like similar government schemes announced recently by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was a symptom of his nervousness in view of the forthcoming Assembly elections.

"He is announcing schemes without giving any thought to the background and consequences of his declarations. The scheme is likely to lead to a number of disputes between landlord and tenants," Mr. Gupta alleged.

The BJP leader argued that there were a number of loopholes in the AAP government's flagship power and water subsidy schemes in unauthorised colonies. The results of these surveys are expected to be in by mid-October.

DCW rescues trafficked woman, issues notice to police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Wednesday said that a 19-year-old woman from Assam, who was allegedly trafficked to Delhi, was rescued from Punjabi Bagh area. The DCW also issued notice to the city police seeking details of the investigation and whether the accused have been arrested yet.

"The victim has demanded action against the owner of the house, where she was made to work as a domestic help, the agent and the trafficker who had brought her to Delhi. However, despite the passage of 10 days, the police is yet to even register an FIR in the matter," the DCW said.

DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal said, "The house-owners should be urgently arrested. The police is yet to arrest the traffickers despite two rescues by the commission in the past week. Is it that the poor and voiceless do not matter to the police at all?"

Officials of the women's commission said that the victim and two other women were brought to the Capital with the promise of a "high-paying" job but was instead made to work as domestic help. It was also alleged that an 80-year-old man in the family tried to molest the victim.

Everything is not fine



Indian Youth Congress supporters protest against the hefty fines imposed under the amended Motor Vehicles Act, outside Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari's residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

months, hold consultations with several organisations such as resident and market associations to earmark spaces which may be converted into paid parking areas.

The Delhi Traffic Police will be responsible for towing away vehicles parked on 60-foot wide roads. In case of other roads, civic agencies will do the same with towing and custody charges varying as per type of the vehicle.

NGT raps Centre over RO purifiers' ban notice

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has rapped the Union Environment Ministry over the delay in issuing a notification pertaining to the ban of RO purifiers where total dissolved solids (TDS) in water are below 500 milligrams per litre.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A.K. Goel said the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF)'s plea of seeking an eight months' time is "unreasonable". Referring to a report on

an expert committee, the Bench further added, "Accordingly, the MoEF may now issue the necessary notification in the light of the direction already issued in accordance with the report of the expert committee and cover not only the subject of recovery of RO reject water in domestic and commercial use but also in industrial process."

The report had stated that if the TDS is less than 500 milligrams per litre, a RO system will not be useful but will result in the removal of important minerals.

IN BRIEF

BJP cleans, garlands statues: of leaders in city

NEW DELHI
On the occasion of the birthday of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on Wednesday, the BJP cleaned and garlanded statues of freedom fighters and political leaders across the Capital. Party's national working president Jagat Prakash Nadda cleaned Deendayal Upadhyay's statue at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Park and garlanded it. Mr. Nadda and Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari also cleaned Laxmi Bai's statue at Jhandewalan and garlanded it.

8-ft-long python rescued near Indraprastha Park

NEW DELHI
An eight-foot-long Indian rock python, which ventured on to a busy road near Indraprastha Park was rescued by members of an NGO involved in wildlife conservation. Passers-by spotted the python and informed the police control room, which in turn contacted the NGCI. PTI

Kejriwal takes a jibe at Tiwari over NRC

If exercise is implemented in Delhi, Tiwari will be the first one to leave the city: Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took a dig against BJP State chief Manoj Tiwari here on Wednesday, saying if the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was implemented in the Capital, the Bhojpuri singer-turned-politician would be the first to leave the city.

Mr. Kejriwal's comment triggered a near-immediate response from the BJP, which utilised the opportunity to argue that it had exposed his "real face" coupled with the allegation that the AAP chief wanted to evict migrants belonging to Poorvanchali community from Delhi.

Hailing from eastern parts of the country, such as eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, those constituting the community have a significant presence across the city and play an important role in any election in Delhi.



Manoj Tiwari

The Chief Minister's comment was in response to a question on the proposed carrying out of an NRC-like exercise, similar to the one in Assam, at a press conference. "If NRC is implemented in Delhi, Manoj Tiwari will be the first to leave Delhi," Mr. Kejriwal told the media.

Mr. Tiwari, a BJP MP from north-east Delhi, who has demanded that the exercise be carried out in the Capital

on more than one occasion, claimed that Mr. Kejriwal "wants to remove people from [West] Bengal, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and other states from Delhi".

BJP leader hits back

Does Kejriwal, who is an IRS [Indian Revenue Service] officer, not know what NRC is? It seems Kejriwal has lost his mental balance," Mr. Tiwari said in response to the Chief Minister's comment during a Facebook Live interaction.

"This statement exposes Kejriwal's real face. It means he wants to evict the migrants like Poorvanchalis from Delhi... I have criticised him for his policies but I never abused him," Mr. Tiwari said further.

Last month, Mr. Tiwari had said that the situation in Delhi had become "dangerous" due to the presence of a "large number" of illegal immigrants, including Bangla-

deshis and Rohingyas, who were found to be involved in "criminal activities". Mr. Tiwari had first made the demand at a political rally in 2018.

'Proof of residence'

Meanwhile, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj asked if Mr. Tiwari had proof of residence in Delhi since 1971. Attacking the BJP, Mr. Bhardwaj said that Mr. Tiwari wanted people from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand and other North Indian states to be driven out from Delhi.

"These people have come to Delhi to earn a living and Manoj Tiwari wants to drive them out. A proof of living in Delhi for five years is needed for widow pension and people find even that difficult. How will they have proof from 1971?" Mr. Bharadwaj asked.

The Greater Kailash MLA

further alleged that Mr. Tiwari had said that people who have proof from 1971 can only stay in Delhi and others should leave.

"If Manoj Tiwari has the proof from 1971, then he can implement NRC across Delhi. When he does not have it, why does he want to attack poor people who have come from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Uttarakhand?" Mr. Bharadwaj said.

Attacking Mr. Tiwari, the AAP spokesperson also said, "Manoj Tiwari *pade likhe kam hai*. [Manoj Tiwari is poorly educated] BJP leaders are only saying that NRC is a flop idea."

Mr. Bhardwaj further said that the Delhi BJP chief was making such comments as there was a "competition" in Delhi between him and other party leaders, such as Vijender Gupta and Vijay Goel on who would make statements first.

DPCC fines police HQ construction site, others

₹45 lakh imposed on sites across city

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) said it has fined construction sites, including a new Delhi Police Headquarters being constructed at Jai Singh Marg and a General Pool Residential Accommodation at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, ₹5 lakh each, for violating dust pollution control measures.

A total fine of ₹45 lakh has been imposed on different construction sites across the city, it said.

'Land belongs to PWD'

"In case of the police headquarters, the building is being constructed by a private builder and the land belongs to the PWD. We have issued fine to both of them. If the builder does not pay, then the PWD will have to pay it," a DPCC official said.

The official said that at the police headquarters site, construction materials were not kept covered and the tyres of trucks were not sprayed with water and that both the measures aimed at controlling the dust that rise into the air.

Closure orders

"In some cases, penalty of ₹5 lakh has been imposed with the directions to adopt immediate corrective measures, failing which penalty will be enhanced. In cases where violations are severe, closure directions will be issued," an official statement read.

The drive will continue and the teams will visit various construction sites and arterial roads across the city.

CM apprises L-G of purpose to implement odd-even scheme

He seeks inter-departmental coordination to make it a success

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday met Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal at Raj Niwas to apprise him of the AAP-led Delhi government's decision to implement odd-even vehicle rationing scheme between November 4 and November 15 here.

The Chief Minister, the Delhi government said in a statement, informed the L-G about the need to implement the scheme when Delhi would be facing a challenge to maintain its air quality due to stubble burning in neighbouring States and bursting of crackers during Diwali.

"Mr. Kejriwal requested the L-G to direct the departments under his jurisdiction to ensure coordination with the Delhi government departments for a hassle-free implementation of the odd-even scheme in order to make it a success like Delhi had witnessed in 2016 when this scheme was implemented for the first time," the statement said.

Mr. Bajjal took to Twitter to state, "Discussed measures to reduce air pollution and congestion in Delhi. Requested to explore amongst other measures, option of



Arvind Kejriwal

He [L-G] assured us of his support and suggested that opening/closing hours of offices be staggered. The government will definitely implement this

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
Chief Minister

staggered opening/closing hours of offices & other establishments to reduce congestion and resultant air pollution [sic]."

The Chief Minister, in his response to Mr. Bajjal's tweet, said: "Met Hon'ble LG Shri Anil Bajjal ji and briefed him about the steps planned by Delhi govt to reduce air pollution, including Odd Even. He assured us of his support and suggested that opening/closing hours of offices be staggered. The Govt



Anil Bajjal

will definitely implement this [sic]."

The scheme, which entails allowing private vehicles whose registration number ends in even digits to ply on even dates and those with odd last digits to ply only on odd dates, with violators drawing a ₹2,000 fine, will be enforced from November 4 to 15 as part of a seven-point action plan.

The plan is mainly aimed at combating the detrimental effect that stubble and residual crop burning in neighbouring States, such as Punjab and Haryana, have on the Capital's ambient air quality during winter. Other components of the seven-point plan include mechanised sweeping and water sprinkling on roads, tree plantation, and special measures to be put in place at 12 pollution hotspots in Delhi.

Kailash Gahlot hits out at Law Secretary

'He didn't obey order on division of power'

NEW DELHI
STAFF REPORTER

Law Minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday alleged that Principal Secretary, Law Department, Sanjay Kumar Aggarwal, did not follow a Supreme Court (SC) judgment on division of power in Delhi. Mr. Aggarwal, however, has termed the Minister's allegations "baseless".

In a 2018 judgment, the apex court had said that the Delhi government need not obtain the L-G Anil Bajjal's "concurrence" in every issue of day-to-day governance.

"Sanjay Aggarwal overturned the opinion of his predecessor and gave an opinion completely contrary to the SC judgment. He said that all the files should be sent to the L-G and till he approves it, the decisions of Council of Ministers cannot be implemented. This was completely contrary to the judgment," Mr. Gahlot said.

He said that this brought the entire work of Law Department to a standstill. "While the other Delhi government departments are complying with the SC order and are not sending any file for the L-G's approval, the Law Secretary refused to do so. Even when the Law Minister overruled Law Secretary's opinion, the latter re-

fused to follow the written directions of his superior. This was in direct contravention of his conduct rules," Mr. Gahlot said.

Mr. Aggarwal, on the other hand, said, "I never obstructed the work of the Law Department and neither do I intend to. The allegations are baseless and I have not received a copy of the Minister's statement."

Referring to the opinion he gave on sending the files to the L-G, Mr. Aggarwal told *The Hindu*, "It is my sacrosanct duty to follow the commands of the SC and High Court. I have given my interpretation in my notesheet on 20.6.19 on the basis of well-established principles in letter and spirit of the dictum of the Supreme Court. My opinion was far away from political biases and based on conceptual fairness and I still stand by it."

Mr. Gahlot also said that the Mr. Aggarwal had notified Delhi Advocates' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2019 without insisting on the L-G's approval. "He has decided to follow the orders of the SC now. The Delhi government will now initiate the process of implementation of ₹50 crore welfare fund of the advocates," Mr. Gahlot said.

Nadda launches campaign on removal of Articles 370, 35A

BJP leader terms them anti-Dalit, anti-women, anti-national

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party national working president Jagat Prakash Nadda on Wednesday launched a public awareness campaign on the removal of Articles 370 and 35A from the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Terming their existence a "historical blunder", at a program held at the Talkatora Stadium, Mr. Nadda alleged that these articles were "anti-Dalit, anti-women, anti-national" and their removal had become "necessary".

"...today we are fortunate that with the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president and Home Minister Amit Shah, we have been able to amend the historical blunder. We have been able to see in our lifetime *ek vidhan*, *ek nishan* and *ek pradhan* in our country," Mr. Nadda said.

"In May, 2019, people exercised their right of voting and elected us and in Parliament we voted for this historical decision. It is the responsibility of all of us to tell the people through 'Jan Jagran Abhiyan' the meaning of Article 370 and 35A, when it was included and how it



was abolished," he said further.

Attacks leaders in Valley

Mr. Nadda also attacked political leaders from the Valley, including Farooq Abdullah of the National Conference, Mehbooba Mufti of the Peoples Democratic Party and Ghulam Nabi Azad of the Indian National Congress.

They had, Mr. Nadda alleged, misled the nation "since long" in relation to the "temporary and transitional provision" from which "only some families" benefitted.

"In Article 370, it has been stated that this is a temporary and transitional provision. All the members of the Constitution Committee were against inclusion of Article 370," Mr. Nadda argued.

We are fortunate that with the efforts of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, we have been able to amend the historical blunder. We have been able to see in our lifetime *ek vidhan*, *ek nishan* and *ek pradhan* in our country

JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA
BJP national working president

"The Central government used to allot a large amount for the development of Jammu and Kashmir but only three families benefitted. Kashmir was not part of the mainstream and only some families prospered. Article 370 was anti-Dalit, anti-women, anti-national and it was necessary to abolish it," he said further.

Over the next 15 days, Mr. Nadda added, the party's leaders and members needed to apprise the people of the Capital of the various provisions of, and the reasons behind the removal of Articles 370 and 35A through the 'Jan Jagran Abhiyan'.

Congress plans agitation with sanitation workers

Party attacks AAP government over unfulfilled promises, soaring onion prices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

To raise its voice against the AAP government for making promises to sanitation workers that have not been fulfilled, the Delhi Congress has planned an agitation along with several sanitation worker unions, outside the Chief Minister's residence on Thursday.

DPCC working president Rajesh Lilothia said Congress

workers in Delhi will observe 'Chhalawa Diwas' at the same time that the CM is slated to hold an 'Adhikar Diwas' to make a fresh set of promises to the sanitation workers of Delhi.

In the last four-and-a-half years, he said, Mr. Kejriwal made many promises to the sanitation workers, including a hike in wages and an end to the contract system and not only did he fail to fulfil any of

those, but also delayed paying even the meagre wages to them. "Various sanitation workers unions have told the Congress that they will not be fooled by Kejriwal's hollow promises this time around," Mr. Lilothia said.

DPCC working president Haroon Yusuf, meanwhile, blamed the BJP-led Central government and the AAP government in Delhi for the shortage and soaring prices

of onions in Delhi.

"Mr. Kejriwal is trying to fool people of Delhi by declaring that onion shortage would be brought under control in ten days, even though the vegetable has become a scarce commodity in the Capital now, selling for ₹70 to 80 per kg. In ten days, onions from Gujarat and Rajasthan would start arriving in Delhi and the prices would automatically start falling," Mr. Yusuf said.

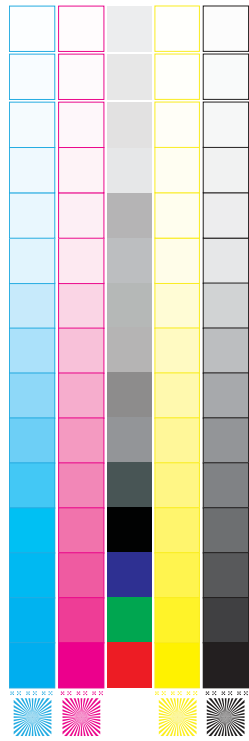
Bangladesh Minister visits city school

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Primary and Mass Education, Bangladesh, Md. Zakir Hossain, visited Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya in Shalimar Bagh here on Wednesday to study the educational reforms being undertaken by the AAP government.

He was accompanied by Deputy CM and Education Minister Manish Sisodia who took him on a tour of the school.

Mr. Hossain said his government would take review the programme and take the benefits from it.



Govt., academicians should work hand in hand: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, said on Wednesday that there was an urgent need for academic institutions and the government to work together in order to formulate the policies around sustainable development. He said that academicians and the government working in isolation would not create any impact.

Mr. Sisodia was speaking at an international conference on sustainable development organised by the Directorate of International Affairs, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.

He said it was important to involve the younger generation when talking about and making policy with respect to climate change and sustainable development as it would eventually affect their lives in the years to come.

"Sixteen-year-old Greta Thunberg is bringing our attention to our current situation and where we are heading. When a young girl like her, sitting in one part of the world, is thinking about what governments have been up to, it is important for us to understand how we are being perceived by the people who we are working for," Mr. Sisodia said.

New names added, Gurugram has over 11 lakh voters now

25,000 registered since LS polls; 1 lakh added to list this year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

More than 25,000 new voters have got themselves registered in Gurugram district till August since the Lok Sabha election earlier this year, taking the total number of voters to 11,86,857. Thus, till last month, around one lakh names have been added to the district voters list this year.

The District Election Office figures state that Badshahpur has the maximum number of registered voters – 3,86,974 – among the four Assembly constituencies, followed by Gurugram at 3,54,361, Sohna at 2,26,928 and Pataudi at 2,18,594. The total number of male and female voters are 6,26,100 and 5,60,757 respectively.

50 more booths

Holding a press conference at mini-secretariat here on Tuesday, Deputy Commissioner Amit Khatri said 50 more polling booths would be added to the district for the forthcoming Assembly election compared to the Lok Sabha election in May, in view of the increase in the



number of voters and a request for the same had been forwarded to the Election Commission of India. The total number of polling booths in the district would be around 1,200 in the upcoming Vidhan Sabha election, he said.

Voter-population ratio

Mr. Khatri added that the voter-population ratio for Gurugram district had jumped to 51% following the registration of new voters.

He also said that three-four model polling booths and two all-woman polling booths would be set up in each Assembly constituency. Earlier, each Assembly constituency

had one model and one all-woman polling booth for Lok Sabha election. He also directed the Returning Officers to ensure that the staff in the women polling booths were all female, including the security personnel. During Lok Sabha election, male staff were also deployed at all-woman booths to assist the female staff.

Mr. Khatri said around 10,000 polling staff would be deployed for conducting the polls in the district.

The filing of nominations will begin on September 27 with the notification and end on October 4. While the scrutiny of the nomination papers will be done on October 5, the last date for nomination withdrawal is October 7. The symbols will also be allocated on the same day after 3 p.m.

The votes in Haryana will be cast on October 21. The counting of votes for all four assembly constituencies in the district will be carried out at Government Women's College in Sector 14 on October 24.

AISA invites students to join its protest tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

AISA has asked students to join the wing at a protest on Friday at which they plan to collect and handover Economics text books to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Students have been invited to come along with their Economics text books to the protest to be held outside the Ministry of Finance to protest the "economic crisis" that the "government is trying to deny", it said. "Even now, at the face of the huge economic crisis, the government does not recognise the root of the problem. In the name of taking steps to solve the crisis, it is giving super-concession for the super-rich," the students alleged. They said that in order to divert our attention from the unfolding economic disaster, the government was fanning communal frenzy and divisive agenda.

GUIDANCE IAS
MORE THAN A COACHING

GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL
HIMANSHU SIR

Open Seminar
28th Sept.
11:00 am
Open for All

10 NCERT's Test (Obj. & Subj) with discussion to test your attitude for Geography
011-45586829, 9718793363

IN BRIEF

CAG to audit debt due of Rapid Metro
GURUGRAM
The Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the Comptroller and Auditor General to audit within 30 days the "debt due" in operations of the Gurugram Rapid Metro. The court through its order on September 20 also directed subsidiaries of IL&FS to continue the operations of Rapid Metro for 30 days, effective from September 16.

Plea against formation of GRC: JNU's reply sought
NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought a response of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on a plea by many students, including former office-bearers of the students' union, challenging the formulation of the Grievance Redressal Committee by the university. The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 7. PTI

Siblings held with heroin worth ₹2.5 crore
GHAZIABAD
Two brothers have been arrested here with over one kg of heroin worth ₹2.5 crore, police said on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, Sachin and Nitin were arrested from Vijay Nagar on Tuesday, DCP Atish Kumar said. PTI

Shiv Sena leader's nephew shot dead in Ghaziabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GHAZIABAD
A nephew of a Shiv Sena leader was shot dead allegedly by motorcycle-borne men here on Wednesday, the police said.
The deceased has been identified as Amit Kumar (45), nephew of Shiv Sena leader Mahesh Ahuja, they said.
Three motorcycle-borne men intercepted Amit Kumar's car near his house in Chiranjiv Vihar colony in

Street crimes in city have come down by over 20%: police chief

Emergency response number '112', street crime patrol van 'prakhar' launched

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Over the years, the Delhi police have taken several steps such as identifying vulnerable spots, enhancing visibility, forming anti-snatching squads and all-woman patrolling teams resulting in decline of over 20% street crime like snatching and robberies, said Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik at an event to launch a new integrated emergency helpline number '112'.
Union Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the helpline number and flagged off 'prakhar', a street crime patrol van in the Capital, on Wednesday.
The new number will be common for all emergency services, including police, ambulance, fire brigade and others. Till the time people get used to the new helpline number, all other emergency numbers will be active.
The person in distress can approach the police through Single Emergency Response Number i.e. '112' either through dial or through mobile application. In case of



Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik and others at the launch of Single Emergency Response Number '112' in the Capital on Wednesday. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

emergency, a person can dial 112 from phone or press power button thrice on smart phone to activate a panic call to Emergency Response Centre (ERC). This call will be immediately passed on to the control room for providing quick police assistance. The distress calls can also be made through social media, e-mail, SMS etc., said a senior police officer.

During the event, when media persons asked Mr. Patnaik about a series of snatching incidents in the city, he said that special police teams are working on the cases. It will be worked out at the earliest.
"We have taken proactive measures to prevent street crimes. The cases of snatching have come down," said Mr. Patnaik.
Crime by use of firearm has also shown a steady de-

cline due to sustained drive launched against criminals, he added.
Mr. Patnaik said that the response time of Delhi Police to any crime can be compared with any other country. "In 80% of PCR calls, Delhi Police response time is five minute. With the help of 112, we will try to better the response time," he added.
Prakhar street crime control patrol vehicle was conceptualised under 'Safe City Project' to curb street crime. It will add more power to PCRs and district police, he added.

No headway in Dwarka murder case

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Delhi Police could not make any break through in the murder of a 48-year-old property dealer in Dwarka even after 24 hours of the incident.
DCP (Dwarka) Anto Alphonso said that three teams are working on the case and it will be solved within a couple of days. "We have sent teams to the adjoining States after getting some clue about the assailants. The motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained," said the DCP.
On Tuesday, Narendra Gehlot, a property dealer, was in his SUV and about to leave office on Old Palam Vihar Road when a man walked up to his vehicle and fired at him from a close range. Gehlot got out of the SUV and ran for his life towards the office. The gunman, who was wearing a helmet, climbed on top of a car parked in the locality and fired at Gehlot. Another gunman also kept firing at him till he fell on the road. He was rushed to a hospital but declared brought dead by doctors, said a police officer.

Lift technician rapes teen on terrace of high-rise, held

Accused lured her by promising a gift

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM
A 21-year-old lift technician was arrested for allegedly raping a teenager at a high-rise in upscale DLF Phase-II here earlier this week. The girl got sick after the incident and was admitted to a hospital.
Accused Arun Sharma lured the 14-year-old girl to the terrace of the high-rise on the pretext of giving her a gift and raped her on last Monday evening, said the police. He also forced the girl to swallow a medicine to prevent pregnancy and fled, they added.
Arun, a native of Sonipat, had become friends with the girl three months ago. The girl is a Class IX student of a prominent school in Gurugram.

The teenager's father, a chemical engineer, was away at work while her mother, a home maker, had gone to Delhi for some personal work when the incident took place.
One of the family's neighbours called the girl's mother to inform her about the incident. She returned home and took her to hospital.
Sent to jail
The matter was reported to the police on Tuesday and a case was registered at DLF Phase-II police station under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The accused was arrested from Patel Nagar on Wednesday. He was produced before the court and sent to jail.

Three wanted criminals held after gunfight

Two of them sustained injuries

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Three wanted criminals were arrested by the special cell of the Delhi Police after an exchange of fire in south west Delhi's Dhansa-Najafgarh Road on Wednesday morning, officials said.
The accused were identified as Pramod, Nishant and Surjeet. While Pramod and Nishant are residents of Bawana, Surjeet is a resident of Rohtak. They are members of Sandeep alias Dheeru gang, the police said.
The incident took place on Dhansa-Najafgarh road when the accused, who were travelling in a car from Haryana to a hideout in South Delhi, were asked to surrender by the police. The accused opened fire at the police team. Two of the accused sustained gunshot injuries during the exchange of fire, a police official said. The injured were said to be stable, the official added.

The car used by the accused has been seized and three firearms along with ammunition have been recovered
POLICE OFFICIAL
"The accused were wanted in at least eight different cases, including extortion, robbery, car jacking and attempt to murder. The car used by the accused has been seized and three firearms along with ammunition have been recovered," the official said.
Pramod was wanted in over nine different cases, including attempt to murder, extortion and robbery. He was the prime shooter involved in the escape of Sandeep from police custody in 2018, the police said. Surjeet was earlier sentenced to seven years in a case in Haryana, they added.

Five-year jail to ex-IAS officer for forgery

For procuring weapons by fudging documents; 81-year-old denied soft punishment.

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI
A Delhi court has awarded five years imprisonment to an 81-year-old retired IAS officer for procuring licensed weapons on forged documents in Nagaland in 1985. He was posted there at that time.
According to the prosecution, he had purchased these weapons after obtaining a licence by hiding the fact that he had already been issued three licences, the maximum he was entitled to under the law.
Further, he committed

forgeries by making alterations in the licence to purchase two weapons and 2,000 cartridges in excess of the permission. He was licensed to purchase one weapon and 200 cartridges.
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Anu Aggarwal held accused S.S. Ahluwalia guilty under Section 417 (cheating) read with Section 415 (to deceive any person to deliver a property), 471 (using as genuine a forged document) read with Section 467 (forgery) of IPC and Section 25 of Arms Act, 1959.

Counsel for the accused urged the court to award him a lenient punishment keeping in view his old age and the ailments he was suffering from. But the ACMM rejected it.
Acted contrary to law
"The convict is guilty of deliberate, calculated manipulation of the system he enjoyed a supreme position in. He, being a serving IAS officer, was duty bound to uphold the rule of law but he acted contrary and purchased weapons in contravention of the Arms Act and

that too on the basis of forgery in the arms licence of which he was aware of being forged," the ACMM said.
"He was clearly in the knowledge that his acts would lead to corrosion of the very institution of the government from within. Taking a lenient view of the convict's covert corrupt practices will not only rob this court of its sanctity, but will also lead to public derision of the very concept of rule of law," the ACMM said in the sentence order dismissing the plea for a soft punishment.

Court cancels discharge of 3 in molestation case

Order on revision petition set aside

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI
A Delhi court has set aside the discharge of three persons in a molestation case, saying that Metropolitan Magistrate Harshita Vatsayan passed the order without discussing the prosecution argument.
Additional Sessions Judge Surinder Kumar Sharma set aside the order on a revision petition filed by the prosecution.
The prosecution argued that the Metropolitan Magistrate had passed the order without applying his mind.

Allowing the revision petition, the Judge said: "Vide the impugned order dated January 15, 2019, the trial court had framed the charge against accused Rohit (who passed away after being chargesheeted), and the other accused persons i.e. the respondents herein, have been discharged of the offences. The perusal of the impugned order reveals that the trial has not discussed the arguments addressed by the State/revisionist, while passing the impugned order."
"Neither the impugned order reflects as to what was argued by the State and how were the arguments of the State rejected. The perusal of the impugned order reveals that order on charge is not speaking order. The order discharging the accused persons should be a speaking order," the Judge further said.

Water woes



Residents fill water from a tanker near Geeta Colony on Wednesday. *R.V. MOORTHY

Fake MBBS admission racket busted with arrest of three

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA
With the arrest of three men, Noida Police on Wednesday claimed to have cracked a blind murder case and busted a fake MBBS admission racket.
The accused, held from the Zero Point on the Yamuna Expressway on Tuesday evening, were running a fake call centre named "Crack Your Career" through which they duped MBBS aspirants pan India,

the police said.
A body was found near Wajidpur village on September 9 and a probe revealed the identity of the deceased as Sanjeev Rawat alias Rishi, who was an employee of "Crack Your Future" consultancy, SSP, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Vaibhav Krishna said.
"Investigation led the police to the accused men. Three of them have been arrested while four are absconding," Mr. Krishna said. Those arrested have been

identified as Neeraj Singh alias Harendra Singh, 30, Nikhil Gaurav alias Sameer Rai, 25, and Dharendra Kumar alias Sonal Singh, 41, he said.
"The gang had an office in Janakpuri, Delhi and one in Noida. They had gathered data of candidates aspiring for admission in prominent medical colleges. They would call up gullible candidates and offer them help with admission for a price and then vanish," he said.

Office of the Executive Engineer
Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam
R-1 Raj Nagar, Near Hint Chouraha, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Pin 201002.
Short: Term E-Tender Notice
No. 1083/Nivada/66
Dtd. 24-09-2019
E-Tender Notice
Online percentage rate short e-tender for "Repair of internal surface and joints between Manhole No. 39 to 41 of viaduct of pipe line from Hindon Bridge to Farukhanagar under 200 cusec Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Scheme " is hereby invited in single bid system on behalf of M.D. U.P. Jal Nigam from the contractors registered with U.P. Jal Nigam in Class "B" (Civil Works) and having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 28-09-2019. Interested contractors may view & download tender document tender and upload their bids, duly filled, online latest by 09-10-2019 up to 01.30 P.M. Technical & Financial Evaluation cum financial Bid of E-tender shall be opened on 09-10-2019 at 04.00 P.M.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR OPEN TENDER OF ELECTRICAL (OP) DEPARTMENT
DRM (Electrical/OP)/ECR/Dhanbad for and behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the execution of following work:
E-Tender No. : ELOP-OT-8-CNL-19.
Sl. No. (1) Name of the work, location and completion of period : Outsourcing of different activities in Crew lobbies and Control at various locations for 02 years (730 days) in Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway. **Work Completion Period-02 Years (730 Days) (2) Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 6,83,20,495.60 (Tender Document Cost - Rs. 10,000/-)**
(3) Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 4,91,600/- (4) **Date & Time for closing and opening of E-Tender :** Closing of e-Tender : On 11.10.2019 at 12.00 Hrs. Opening of e-Tender : On 11.10.2019 at 15.30 Hrs. (6) **Website particulars - Website : www.ireps.gov.in.** Manual offers are not allowed against this Tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Elect./OP), Dhanbad
PR1272/DHN/Elect./T/19-20/36

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Shanti @ Baby**, D/o: **Sh. Dharmvir AKA Murlidhar**, R/o: **H. No. N -14/144, Munshi Ram colony, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi** has been missing since **11.09.2019** from the area of **P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi**. In this regard **DD No. 29A** dated **12.09.2019** has been registered at P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of missing girl is as under:
Name: Shanti @ Baby, Age: 23 Years, Height: 5'2", Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Wearing: White Shirt and Black Jeans.
If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 **SHO**
Police Station, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
Ph: 011- 27654675, 8750870234
DP/9392/NW/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo) namely **Sakir Ali S/o Zakir Ali R/o H. No. 52, Street No. 2, Subash Mohalla, Maujpur, Delhi** **Aged - about 28 Years** has been reported missing since **12.08.2019** vide **DD No. 4-A Dated 19.08.2019** registered at Police Station Jafrabad, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Built: Medium, Clothing: Black coloured t-shirt and blue coloured jeans.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing man, may inform SHO, Jafrabad, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
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OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, YAMUNA POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT, UTTAR PRADESH JAL NIGAM
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Ref. No. 909/Nivada/201 Dated 21-9-2019
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🌙 RISE	03:07	🌇 SET	16:49
FRIDAY, SEPT. 27			
☀️ RISE	06:12	🌇 SET	18:12
🌙 RISE	04:16	🌇 SET	17:34
SATURDAY, SEPT. 28			
☀️ RISE	06:12	🌇 SET	18:11
🌙 RISE	05:25	🌇 SET	18:15

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Safdarjang	35	25
Palam	35	23

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Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C A comfortable and hazy morning is likely. Day will be mostly dry and warm with cloudy sky.

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One more held in arms delivery case

Weapons were suspected to have been delivered from Pakistan using drones

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab police on Wednesday arrested one more person in connection with the delivery of arms and ammunition from Pakistan through use of drones.

The police said Gurdev Singh, resident of Jhaj village in Hoshiarpur district was arrested by a team of the State Special Operation Cell from PAP Chowk in Jalandhar.

Revived KZF
Gurdev is the brother of Germany-based operative Gurmest Singh Bagga who had reorganised their terrorist group – Khalistan Zindabad Force – to revive terrorism in Punjab, along with the Pakistan-based chief of KZF, Ranjeet Singh alias Neeta.

On September 22, the

‘No e-waste dismantling on riverbanks’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to ensure that there is no illegal dismantling of e-waste along the banks of the river Ramganga in Moradabad, while observing that it is an important tributary of the river Ganga.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said that any dismantling or recycling had to be done in accordance with relevant hazardous waste management rules.

“Treatment, storage and disposal facilities must also be compliant with the rules. Such precautions of compliance of the rules are required by all handlers or recyclers of e-waste or hazardous waste throughout the country,” the Bench said.

The green panel said that the directive has to be circulated to all authorities concerned by the Central Pollution Control Board.

During the hearing, the U.P. Chief Secretary also informed the tribunal that an action plan prepared will be executed in two stages. “In stage I, there will be temporary storage and in stage II permanent facility will be set up. Status report has been handed over during the hearing to the effect that temporary storage has been ensured and several steps taken for permanent disposal in TSDF at Amroha.”

AAP announces candidates for Punjab Assembly bypolls

Party to raise several issues, including unemployment and unfulfilled promises

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday declared its candidates for the Punjab Assembly bypolls.

AAP State president and Sangrur Member of Parliament Bhagwant Mann announced the names of all the four candidates after the party's core committee meeting held here.

“Gurdhian Singh Multani will be our candidate for the Mukerian seat while Santosh Kumar will contest from the Phagwara constituency,” he said, adding that Mahinder Singh will be the party's candidate from the Jalandhar constituency and Amandeep Singh Mohi will be its candidate for the Dakha seat.

The Jalandhar and Phagwara seats fell vacant after their MLAs Sukhbir Badal of the Akali Dal and Som Parkash of the BJP were elected to the Lok Sabha in the recently concluded parliamentary election.



AAP's Punjab unit chief Bhagwant Mann and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema announcing the party candidates in Chandigarh on Wednesday. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

tary election.

Dakha seat fell vacant after former AAP MLA H.S. Phoolka resigned in January this year while election was necessitated for the Mukerian seat following the demise of Congress MLA Rajnish Kumar Babbi.

Polling in Punjab would

be held on October 21, 2019, and the counting will take place on October 24.

BJP yet announce names
Mr. Mann said the party will raise several issues, including unemployment, farmers' deaths and unfulfilled promises by the Congress.

The Congress has already announced its candidates while the Akali Dal has announced its candidate for the Dakha seat. It is yet to name a contestant from Jalandhar. SAD's ally BJP is also yet to announce its candidates for the Mukerian and Phagwara seats.

‘Drones will be shot down’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Military drones that come from across the border will be shot down by the Army and Air Force, said Lt. Gen. Alok Kler, South Western Army Commander on Wednesday.

police had busted a terrorist module of the revived KZF, seized arms in Tarn Taran district and arrested four suspects.

The police said initial investigation revealed that the weapons were suspected to have been delivered recently through drones launched by Pakistan's ISI and the State-sponsored jihadi and pro-Khalistani terrorist outfits working under its command.

“With the systems and radars that we have, our capability to identify them is very good. I can assure that any military drone that comes across to this side will be shot down with the capabilities of the Army and Air Force,” Lt. Gen. Kler said.

mand.

In all five AK-47 rifles (along with 16 magazines and 472 rounds of ammunition), four Chinese-made .30 bore pistols (along with eight magazines and 72 rounds of ammunition), nine hand grenades, five Thuraya satellite phones along with their ancillary equipment, two mobile phones, two wireless sets and ₹10 lakh fake Indian

currency had been recovered.

The police on Wednesday dismissed reports that the weapons weighed 80 kg.

Probe under way

“..The recovery of [weapons etc] is not 80 kg, it's not that... also, can one drone carry 10 kg payload etc, all these are technical issues, which are under examination. We need to study all these aspects,” R.N. Dhole, Addl. DGP, Internal Security, told *The Hindu*.

News reports suggested that drones capable of lifting up to 10 kg flew in from Pakistan eight times to drop the cache. “Whether the drones were GPS-fitted or how many times they flew, all these things are being examined right now. As of now nothing can be confirmed,” said Mr. Dhole.

Adityanath govt. to give ₹6K annually to triple talaq victims

The Chief Minister also promises free legal aid

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Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday announced an annual assistance of ₹6,000 to the victims of triple talaq till their rehabilitation and said they will also get free legal aid from the State government.

The Chief Minister, under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram, interacted with the women who faced divorce through outlawed practice of instant triple talaq. He said such women should be given rights over

Waqf properties and also called for several welfare measures that should be undertaken for their rehabilitation.

Around 300 women from across the State attended the event.

Government jobs

“Educated women should be absorbed in government jobs as per their qualifications while arrangements should also be made for providing them shelter and education under various schemes. These women should be covered under the

Ayushman Bharat Yojana or under the Chief Minister Arogya Scheme,” he said.

Yogi Adityanath directed the departments concerned to prepare welfare schemes for the victims. “Proper schemes should be implemented for the overall development of the society and no person should feel neglected.”

While assuring the triple talaq victims that their grievances will be redressed, he warned the police that they too would be punished if they failed to perform their duty.

‘Zero budget natural farming can solve farmers’ issues’

Noted agriculturist appraises peasants of his research on forest vegetation, techniques for natural growth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) was highlighted as an alternative method of agriculture, shifting away from big irrigation projects, farm loan waiver and fertilizer subsidy, to address agrarian distress and resolve the plight of peasants at a training camp for farmers organised at Sewar in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district on Wednesday.

Noted agriculturist Subhash Palekar, who has pushed for adoption of ZBNF, apprised the farmers of his research on forest vegetation and the techniques

for natural growth of trees at the six-day-long camp, which is the first one devoted to natural farming in the State. About 6,000 small and marginal farmers from Rajasthan and other States are attending the camp.

Chemical-free farming

Maharashtra-based Mr. Palekar – recipient of the Padma Shri in 2016 – threw light on his “zero budget approach” to chemical-free farming involving manures and agroecology. He said farmers could face the present crisis if they learnt the techniques of reducing input costs, replacing pesticides with tradi-



Agriculturist Subhash Palekar. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tional material and preparation of indigenous seeds.

Mr. Palekar said land productivity had decreased because of constant use of chemical fertilizers, while

Will develop Sikh religious tourism sites in M.P.: Nath

Recently, the Centre reopened anti-Sikh riot cases against him

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Stating that the Madhya Pradesh government would celebrate the 550th ‘Prakash Parv’ of Guru Nanak in a grand manner, Chief Minister Kamal Nath said on Wednesday that places associated with the Sikh guru in the State would be developed as religious tourism sites.

At a meeting in Bhopal with members of the Sikh community for seeking suggestions on the celebrations, Mr. Nath said: “The com-

Scindia unhappy with crop damage survey in M.P.

He has demanded reassessment, adequate compensation

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Expressing dissatisfaction with the State government's survey of crops ravaged by rain and floods, Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia has demanded a reassessment and “adequate compensation” for the affected farmers.

‘Stand with farmers’

“The State government will have to stand with the farmers in this hour of need. I am not satisfied with the preliminary survey,” he told farmers in Neemuch district.

Mr. Scindia's statement comes a week after the government, based on a preliminary assessment, had pegged crop loss in 24 lakh hectares at ₹9,600 crore, and Law Minister P.C. Sharma had claimed ₹325 crore had already been disbursed to the affected farmers.

Moreover, Chief Minister Kamal Nath had promised all the flood-affected complete



Jyotiraditya Scindia. ■ FILE PHOTO

relief by October 15, even if the Centre didn't extend relief by then.

‘Complete relief’

Mr. Scindia said since the weather was clear now, a re-survey should be initiated. “Patwaris and tehsildars should visit fields to assess the actual damage and compensation should be paid accordingly.”

Stating that it was his aim to get each affected individual complete relief, he added, “I believe there is 100% damage to every field in

some areas. There is no need for a survey there.”

‘No colour of disaster’

“The colour of disaster is neither the colour of the Congress nor of the BJP. Therefore, every government should come forward to help farmers. There is no flood in Malwa, it's a disaster. The Centre should extend relief immediately,” he said.

The affected should be extended relief at three levels – the State government, the crop insurance and the Centre, he added. He said the BJP should press the Centre to release the relief package for the State immediately.

Recently, factionalism within the party came to the fore with Forest Minister Umang Singhar accusing former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh of trying to destabilise the government, and two Congress MLAs levelling corruption charge against Health Minister Tulsiram Siawat.

Punjab takes steps to check stubble burning

State orders impounding of harvester machines operating without super SMS

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

With paddy harvesting picking up in Punjab, the State government has ordered impounding of combine harvester machines operating without the Super Straw Management System (super SMS) in an attempt to curb stubble burning.

Farmer outfits said the decision would add to their cost of operations, resulting in additional financial distress. They warned of an agitation if farmers are not duly compensated.

Paddy harvesting is expected to pick up momentum over the next 10-15 days and the farmers will face the challenge of managing nearly 20 million tonnes of straw this season.

The Agriculture Department has ordered impounding of the combine harvester machines which are found to



A farmer burning paddy stubble. ■ FILE PHOTO

be functioning without the super SMS.

The use of super SMS with combine harvester helps to facilitate *in situ* management of crop residue, the super SMS attached to the rear of a combine harvester chops and uniformly spreads loose straw on the field. With this method, the farmers are not required to burn the straw before sowing the next crop.

In the wake of adverse impact of stubble burning on the environment, the Department has issued directions under Section 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. There are nearly 12,000 combine harvesters in Punjab, of which 5,000 are fitted with super SMS.

“We have issued directions to all Deputy Commissioners to depute adequate staff for ensuring strict implementation of the instructions,” said Kahan Singh Panu, State Agriculture Secretary.

Farmers' outfits, however, expressed reservations over the orders.

Additional expenses

“This will only add to our cost of production. Now a farmer will have to spend at least ₹400-₹500 per acre additional for harvesting the

crop. Without the super SMS, the harvesting cost with combine machine is around ₹1,300-1,400/acre. The government should compensate us and then ask us to refrain from burning the crop residue. We should be paid at least ₹5,000 per acre for expenses incurred on the alternative means,” said Pargat Singh, chief patron (Rupnagar) of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Sidhupur).

Harinder Singh, general secretary of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Lakhnowal), said that if farmers were not suitably compensated, the outfit would be left with no other choice but to launch an agitation.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Wednesday wrote to the Prime Minister seeking compensation of ₹100 per quintal of paddy to motivate farmers.

2 minor girls gang-raped
DHANBAD (JHARKHAND)
Two minor girls, both sisters, were raped allegedly by four men at Kenduadih near here, police said on Wednesday. The main accused, a friend of the elder sister, had called her to meet him on Tuesday evening, Dhanbad (Rural) SP said. The 15-year-old girl took her 12-year-old sibling, he said, where the accused and three others raped them.

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Panic spreads in Bengal as people queue up for identity papers

Amid NRC talk, those lacking documentation in the State could number millions

SUVOJIT BAGCHI KOLKATA

The Block Development Office in Dhurguri in north Bengal is a crowded place now, right from very early in the morning. Women, men and even children of all ages queue up in front of the counter to register their names to get various records of identity proof but they are not sure if they exist. "I have come from Salbari village to find out about my grandfather's land record," said Ananta Roy [name changed], an electronics goods repairman. Mr. Roy's family came from Khulna in Bangladesh before its Liberation War in 1971.

"We never maintained any papers, but now I am told that land acquired many decades back needs to have evidence of transfer," said Mr. Roy. It is

a common problem in the border districts of Bengal where many thousands of people migrated from Bangladesh — nearly all Hindus — but do not have proper papers as they just settled on a piece of empty land after arrival.

Undefined land

"Actually, we all are settled on jobordokhol [some undefined land acquired mostly physically but not legally] land; where would papers come from," he acknowledged.

Tapas Goswami of Jalpaiguri had another story. "My father was given a certificate of citizenship in 1950 in Kolkata as he came from Rangpur [in Bangladesh] and we lost it. Now what to do," he asks.

Such cases are not in thousands but in millions in Bengal as people — predominant-

ly Dalit refugees — continued to pour in first from East Pakistan and then from Bangladesh to West Bengal over the last seven decades. An expert of refugee issues in Bengal, Prof. Soumen Chakraborty pegged their figure at "10% of 6.5 crore voters" spread over 47 Assembly constituencies, during the last Lok Sabha poll. The panic among these voters and even the upper castes is due to the constant debate and discussion in public space about the National Register of Citizens [NRC]. However, no official dates of the process have been announced by the Central government.

Mamata's appeal

But the panic is high. So much so that almost on a day-to-day basis Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee had to appeal to the residents — "Do not kill yourself, it won't do any good." In fact, she had released an appeal on television on Wednesday morning asking people not to end lives fearing fast implementation of the NRC. And in the evening she said, "Eleven have committed suicide" for "no fault of theirs". "They felt they cannot be this country's citizens and killed themselves," she said.

This, however, is of little help to the family members of Shyamal Roy, 36-year-old e-rickshaw puller of Dhurguri. Roy and two others took their own lives in Jalpaiguri district on Tuesday. His cousin told *The Hindu* that he "broke down" after standing in the queue in the same Dhurguri Block Development Office for a week.

Rajeev Kumar's bail plea heard 'in-camera'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday directed "in-camera" proceedings in the anticipatory bail hearing of Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Rajeev Kumar in the Saradha scam case.

A plea for "in-camera" hearing was moved by Mr. Kumar's counsel. Eventually, a Division Bench of Justices Sahidullah Munshi and Subhas Dasgupta directed everyone, including the court clerks, to leave the courtroom before the proceedings started. The Bench said that only advocates representing both sides, Mr. Kumar, and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) personnel, will remain in the court. The matter will come up for hearing again on Thursday.

Mr. Kumar had moved an anticipatory bail application in the High Court after a city court rejected his prayer. The IPS officer, who is presently posted as Additional Director General, West Bengal Police (CID), has not appeared before the CBI in connection with the Saradha scam. Mr. Kumar has sought more time from the agency.

Heavy rain lashes Odisha, inundates low-lying areas

Schools remain closed in Puri, Ganjam, Gajapati districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR

Heavy rain lashed several districts in coastal and southern Odisha badly affecting normal life and inundating low-lying areas for the second day on Wednesday.

The rain since Tuesday, triggered by a cyclonic circulation over neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, was likely to continue in several districts till Friday, according to the Meteorological Centre here.

It further said that apart from the heavy rain, most parts of the State were likely to experience moderate rain till Sunday.

Met warning

The centre issued warning about heavy to very heavy rainfall in the districts of Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Cuttack, Khurda, Puri, Bhadrak and Ganjam till Wednesday. Heavy rain was likely in the districts of Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagat Singhpur, Nayagarh, Keonjhar, Kandhamal, Boudh and Dhenkanal districts.

Some areas of Sundargarh,



People caught in the rain in Bhubaneswar. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts are likely to receive heavy rain on Thursday and Friday, it added.

As schools remained closed in Puri, Ganjam and Gajapati districts due to incessant rainfall, thousands of people suffered inconvenience in the low-lying areas and slum clusters of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Balasore and Berhampur on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the State government has instructed the collectors of the districts concerned to take measures to

cope with the situation.

According to the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, all the district Emergency Operations Centre were asked to monitor the situation and to take steps to cope with any eventuality.

Meanwhile, water level in many rivers flowing down the State, including the Mahanadi, Brahmani, Ib, Budhabalanga and the Subarnarekha, was rising due to heavy rainfall in several interior districts of the State bordering Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

No FIR in gang-rape, murder complaint for 28 months

Odisha Human Rights Commission issues notice to Bargarh SP over delay

CORRESPONDENT CUTTACK

Over 28 months after the alleged gang rape of three Dalit women and murder of two persons in this connection in Bargarh district of Odisha, the police are yet to register an FIR in the case.

Taking a serious note of the delay, the Odisha Human

Rights Commission (OHRC) has issued a notice to Bargarh SP seeking a response as to why compensation shall not be paid to the victims for the violation of their human rights.

Taking up an application filed by a human rights activist, the OHRC has asked the SP, Padmini Sahoo, to immediately register an FIR on the

basis of a complaint filed by a person named Ganesh Mallick in May 2017 at the Bheden police station.

The commission has also asked Ms. Sahoo to entrust the case to a DSP-level officer to investigate and submit an action-taken report within six weeks.

"Since the allegations are of a very serious nature and the

victims are entitled to get a fair investigation as per the law, non-registration of FIR is a violation of their human rights," the commission observed and ordered that if the district SP does not respond to the notice within six weeks, the officer shall be asked to appear personally appearance before the commission.

Launch of free drugs scheme against model code: Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee on Wednesday sought action against the BJP-led State government for violating the model code of conduct by announcing a free medicine scheme for plantation workers in 651 tea estates.

By-elections to four of Assam's 126 Assembly seats are scheduled for October 21. Three of these seats — Rangapara, Ratabari and Sonari — cover areas where plantation workers are a potent voting force.

Assam Health and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had on Tuesday launched the free drugs scheme, besides education and home loan subsidy schemes. The drugs scheme entails providing 142 medicines free of cost to hospitals in tea estates across the State.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

DEATH

Sri. R. RAMANI
Raman & Raman
Kumbakonam
Expired on 25.09.2019 at 15.30 hrs.
Ph. 0435-2431170, 9443277234

DEATH

In loving memory

Mr. V.C BALASUBRAMANIAN
72 years, left for the heavenly abode on September 23rd, 2019.
Tendly remembered by
V.C.Ganesan, Lalitha Balasubramanian, Family & Friends
Sri Krishna Kripa, 11/8, 3rd Cross Street
C.I.T.Colony, Mylapore, Chennai-600004
Ph 044-2499 6642 / Cell 98410 24543

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IAS officer, who quit over Kashmir, stopped from visiting library

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan, who quit the services over “denial of freedom of expression” to people of Jammu & Kashmir, has claimed he was barred from visiting the library at the Savitribai Phule Pune University here.

However, library officials at the Jaykar Knowledge Resource Centre said by asking for an application for Mr. Gopinathan’s visit, the institute was following due procedure.

“Got the taste! In Pune university, students enthusiastically called me to the Jaykar library saying a lot of UPSC aspirants study there & would like to meet. Thats when the librarian realised who I am & asked to submit an application for consideration to enter the library!” he tweeted.

“But then the students told that no political activity against Government is allowed in the university/ hostel by regulation! Anyway, being thrown out is not a good feeling. But counts as new experience. So all good,” he tweeted.

CM, Uddhav share stage; alliance announcement yet to happen

Both declare that the grand alliance would form the next government

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Even before the official announcement of an alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiv Sena, the top State leaders of both parties on Wednesday shared the stage in Navi Mumbai and declared that their coalition would form the next government.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray were at the event that was organised to mark the 86th birth anniversary of Mathadi leader Annasaheb Patil and the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Mathadi Act.

“The next government will be ours. The next government will be of grand alliance,” said Mr. Thackeray, assuring Mathadi workers gathered at the program that the issue of their housing will be solved by the next government.

Mr. Fadnavis too hinted that the next government will be of the alliance. “The measures that we are undertaking for the betterment of the workers are half done. We have done some and will do the rest once we are back,” the Chief Minister said.

“Cidco (Navi Mumbai planning agency) is constructing homes for Mathadi workers and under the PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana), a subsidy of ₹2.5 lakh is being given for Mathadis for construction of houses,” he said.

According to sources, the



In one colour: Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis share the dais during the 86th birth anniversary celebrations of Mathadi leader Annasaheb Patil at APMC market in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday. • YOGESH MHATRE

talks of an alliance between both parties is almost over and the announcement is likely to be made on September 29. The Sena will be given 126 seats while the BJP will contest on 162, the sources said. However, neither party confirmed the number.

At Wednesday’s programme, Mr. Thackeray said Annasaheb Patil and his father Balasaheb Thackeray, the late Sena chief, taught Marathi residents of Mumbai and Maharashtra to fight for their rights.

“The Mathadi worker has a spine. He should now aspire to become an owner. Mathadi workers should be able to live with strength and dignity. What is the use of

leaders who can’t honour their commitments?” he asked.

Core committee meeting Meanwhile, amidst delay over announcing a seat-sharing deal with the Shiv Sena for the October elections, the core committee of the Maharashtra unit of BJP met on Tuesday night to assess the party’s region-wise strength and to discuss the possible allocation of seats.

A senior BJP leader said on Wednesday that it was a routine meeting of the committee with Mr. Fadnavis.

“The assessment is necessary for planning the BJP’s campaign because the party has increased its strength in rural as well as urban areas

since the 2014 polls. There are certain areas where the BJP needs to take extra efforts. A discussion was also needed on the pitfalls that the party has to avoid in case of rebellion by disgruntled ticket-seekers,” he said.

State unit BJP president Chandrakant Patil had clarified on Tuesday that the final seat-sharing deal would be announced by Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Thackeray.

In the 2014 Assembly elections, the BJP won 122 out of the 260 seats it had contested in the 288-member House.

Subsequently, it increased its strength by winning elections to local as well as civic bodies across the State.

“Almost all the municipal corporations are now with BJP,” the leader said.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP won 23 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats while Shiv Sena bagged 18 seats.

“The increased strength of the BJP has put a challenge before the party in the form of more than one aspirant vying for most of the constituencies. The BJP needs to contain the aspirations of party workers so that it would not affect the outcome of the polls,” he said.

When asked about the pre-poll alliance with Sena, the leader said, talks are on, but pointed out that since the BJP and Sena have inducted leaders from the Congress and NCP there is little scope to implement the old seat-sharing formula. (With PTI inputs)

Baramati downs shutters, ED effigy burnt in support of Pawar

Protests by NCP youth wing in Pune, Mumbai, Nashik

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

A day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) initiated a money-laundering probe against Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar, his nephew Ajit Pawar and others in the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) loan irregularities, Baramati – the bastion of the Pawar clan – observed a total shutdown in support of the NCP supremo.

Educational institutions, business establishments and shops downed shutters in Baramati and neighbouring Indapur tehsil, while protests organised by the NCP youth wing were staged in Pune, Mumbai, Nashik and other parts of the State including the Marathwada region, especially Beed and Aurangabad districts.

Large crowds, including schoolgoing children, were seen throughout Baramati raising slogans in Mr. Pawar’s support, while angry demonstrations by NCP activists were witnessed accompanied by burning of effigies of the ED.

Speaking in Mumbai, former Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said no irregularities of even a single paisa had occurred at MSCB.

“After an FIR was lodged against me and others on the direction of the Bombay High Court and the economic offences wing (EOW) of the police was probing the case, a certain individual filed a PIL claiming a scam of ₹ 25,000 crore had taken place...moreover, Sharad Pawar has no relation whatsoever



Nationalist Congress Party supporters protest in Baramati on Wednesday over Enforcement Directorate case against party chief Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT • JIGNESH MISTRY



with this case and neither was he ever a director of this bank. To the best of my knowledge, the total deposits of the bank were ₹13,000 crore. So, how could irregularities of ₹25,000 crore have transpired?” he asked.

“Had there been irregularities of this magnitude [₹25,000 crore], the bank would not have been showing a profit of ₹300 crore today,” Mr. Ajit Pawar said.

Meanwhile, Sharad Pawar’s grand nephew, Rohit Pawar, hit out at the BJP saying the allegations were clearly politically motivated.

“The ED’s probe only illustrate that the BJP has no

real issue to talk about. Since it has failed to deliver on its tall promises, it is now attempting to divert public attention by indulging in such undignified moves and misusing probe agencies,” said Mr. Rohit Pawar.

Sandhya Sonawane, head of NCP’s youth wing in Ahmednagar, said the response generated by Mr. Pawar’s pre-poll tours across the State had rattled the BJP.

“As a result, the ruling government is resorting to such base tactics by unleashing the ED on Pawar *saaheb*. However, the public will give a fitting reply in the forthcoming elections,” she said.

Rain-soaked Gujarat expects bumper peanut, cotton harvest

State has received over 125% of the season’s rainfall till date

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat is expecting a bumper production of the cash crops groundnut and cotton, with the State having received more than 125% of the season’s total rainfall. A total of 205 dams in the State are filled to 93.73% of their capacity.

According to the data provided by the State Emergency Operation Centre, the State has received 1,029.54 mm rainfall, almost 126.17 % of its average annual rainfall this season in a surplus monsoon after several years.

Kutch and South Gujarat received the maximum rainfall, 144.58% and 137.73% respectively. North Gujarat, however, received only 96.69% of the annual average rainfall, with the lowest rainfall recorded in Banaskantha and Mehsana districts at 89.1% and 89.28 % respectively.

Other districts like Patan,



Thanks to a favourable monsoon, a bumper groundnut harvest is likely.

Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and Mahisagar have also received below-average rainfall this season, the data showed. Chhota Udepur in central Gujarat received the maximum rainfall for a district in the State, at 163.98 %, followed by Bharuch in the South at 161.08%.

The Narmada Water Resources and Water Supply Department said all 205 dams or reservoirs in the State are filled with 23,641.6

million cubic feet water as on September 25. Of these, nine dams have reached 100% of their capacity; 46 dams are 90% full, while 10 others are filled to 80% to 90% of their storage capacity.

The State’s main water source, the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada, is 98.54 % full and is currently at a level of 138.25 m as against its full reservoir level of 138.68 m.

Meanwhile, the State government has decided to start online registration for the procurement of groundnut for 2019-20 under the Centre’s Minimum Support Price scheme from October 1.

Civil Supply Minister Jayesh Radadiya said actual procurement would start after Diwali in 124 centers across the State under CCTV monitoring and foolproof arrangements for storage. This year, the MSP has been fixed at ₹5,090 per quintal.

Intense showers pelt Pune

Downpours cause waterlogging, traffic snarls in city, suburbs

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The monsoon continued to bedevil commuters as intense showers lashed Pune city and district along with other parts of western Maharashtra in the past 48 hours.

Heavy downpours coupled with thunder from late on Monday and throughout Tuesday led to waterlogging and traffic snarls in a number of areas in the city and its suburbs.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), more rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms was expected in parts of the State on Thursday and the intensity was expected to reduce by the end of September 27.

The city’s Shivajinagar area received more than 46 mm rainfall in a single hour during the intervening night between Monday and Tuesday. The area received another 87.3 mm rainfall between Tuesday and Wednesday, while the Pashan area received 71.8 mm rain-



Pedestrians wade through the waterlogged Bibwewadi-Kondhwa road on Wednesday after incessant rainfall in several parts of Pune. • MANDAR TANNU

fall during the same time.

“Despite the retreat of the monsoon at hand, there have been robust bouts of rain. The midnight showers of Monday and Tuesday are the result of a local instability generated by a rise in the daytime temperature,” said Dr. Anupam Kashyapi, head, Weather & Air Pollution Monitoring Unit, IMD.

He said rising temperatures and high moisture levels during the day gave way for convective activities in the night, which led to heavy showers accompanied by

prolonged lightning.

People working in the Hinejwadi IT Park area had a nightmarish ride back home on Tuesday and Wednesday owing to tremendous waterlogging at the Sayaji pass, causing traffic to crawl.

Given the sheer intensity of rain, there were reports of trees toppling in some parts of the city.

Other parts of western Maharashtra, including some tehsils in Satara, Sangli and Ahmednagar districts, too, were hit by steady spells of rain.

Road project delay hits tourist footfall at Ajanta

PWD officials say irregularities forced change of contractor; tour operators and guides see dip in revenue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AURANGABAD

The number of tourists visiting the Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra has been going down due to poor condition of the key connecting road. The repair and widening work on the road has been delayed due to deficient services of the contractual agency, officials have said.

In January, 41,134 people, including 3,352 foreigners, visited the UNESCO world heritage site comprising around 30 rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments in Aurangabad district, while in August, the number came down to 10,631, including 139 foreigners, as per the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). In January 2018, as many as 52,410 people,

including 3,907 foreigners, had visited the caves, while in August 2018, the number of visitors was 35,359, including 874 from abroad.

Besides, there were 29 visitors from SAARC countries between January and September 2018, but there has not been a single tourist so far this year from those nations.

Similarly, 3,001 people from the BIMSTEC countries visited the heritage site from January to September 2018, but the number went down to 2,268 this year during the same period, according to the ASI data.

The delay in completion of widening work of the 150-km Aurangabad-Sillod-Ajanta-Jalgaon highway poses a big hurdle for



Tourists are forced to return midway because of potholes on the road leading to the popular Ajanta Caves. • FILE PHOTO

people to visit the caves, Jaswant Singh, head of the Aurangabad Tourism Development Foundation, a local organisation of tour operators, said.

Guide Ratnakar Shewale, who is proficient in

Japanese and Spanish, also said that the connectivity between Aurangabad and Ajanta, located around 100 km from the district headquarters, has become poor due to the delayed road work. “Many a times,



tourists on way to the caves return midway because of potholes on the road. This is affecting the livelihood of guides as well as the local hotel industry. This year, we earned just half of what we used to earn in previous years,” he said.

Public Works Department (PWD) superintending engineer Prashant Auti said the government found irregularities in the work of the contractor assigned to the Aurangabad-Sillod-Ajanta-Jalgaon road project. “We have terminated services of that agency, and a sub-letting process is on. We expect to start the work next month in a full-fledged manner. If everything goes smooth, we can make the road motorable in 12

months,” he said.

Another PWD official said the work order for repairing two lanes of the Aurangabad-Jalgaon road with paved shoulders was given in June 2017 and was supposed to be completed by June this year. In the meantime, this work was expanded to four lanes in January. “Now, a new deadline of January 2021 has been set up for completion of the work,” the official said.

Noting that footfall has been going down, the ASI’s superintending archaeologist, Dr. D.K. Khamari, said, “We are expecting the road work to be completed as soon as possible so that tourists can have a smooth visit to the Ajanta Caves.”

**MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI**

Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice no.- MCF/RBL/Tender/Under Frame Fabrication/2019-20/C148 dt. 18.09.2019 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for and on behalf of President of India for the following work:-
Description of work: Fabrication of Under Frame complete as per scope of work.
Approx. Value: ₹ 2,05,77,312.00 **EMD:** ₹ 2,52,900.00 **Cost of Tender document:** ₹ 10,000.00 only **Quantity of work:** 350 Under frame. **Completion period of work:** 12 Months or earlier. • **Period of submission of tender document:** From 30.09.2019 to 14.10.2019 • **Date & time of closing of tender:** 14.10.2019 at 11:45 hrs. • **Date & time of opening of tender:** 14.10.2019 at 12:00 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in in tender document. **Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell**

Tender No.: MCF-RBL-TTC-Cleaning-2019-20. **Due on:** 18.10.2019
Principal/TTC, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli for and on behalf of President of India, invites **ONLINE** open e-tender based on double packet system from reputed firms through Indian Railways portal www.ireps.gov.in for tender notice no. MCF-RBL-TTC-Cleaning-2019-20. **Due on: 18.10.2019** on prescribed format for the under mentioned work- **Description of work:** Management and Housekeeping services in Technical Training Centre and Its Hostel at MCF/RBL/Lalganj as per scope of work for 03 years (36 months). **Approx. Value:** ₹ 4,02,64,130.00 (₹ Four Crores Two Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand One Hundred Thirty only) **Earnest Money rounded off to nearest multiple of 10:** ₹ 3,51,330.00 (₹ Three Lakhs Fifty One Thousand Three Hundred Thirty only) **Cost of Tender document:** ₹ 10000.00 **Completion period from the date of commencement of work:** 36 Months (03 Year) • **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 18.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs. • Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available in tender document at Indian Railways portal: www.ireps.gov.in **Principal/TTC**

Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice no.- MCF/RBL/Tender/fabrication work of WTCC/2019-20/C384 dt. 23.09.2019 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/SMS & House Keeping, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for and on behalf of President of India for the following work:-
Description of work: Outsourcing of fabrication work of WTCC as per scope of work. **Approx. Value:** ₹ 48,01,125.00 **EMD:** ₹ 96,000.00 **Cost of Tender document:** ₹ 3,000.00 only **Quantity of work:** 175 Coach Set. **Completion period of work:** 12 Months or earlier. • **Period of submission of tender document:** From 02.10.2019 to 16.10.2019 • **Date & time of closing of tender:** 16.10.2019 at 11:45 hrs. • **Date & time of opening of tender:** 16.10.2019 at 12:00 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in in tender document. **Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/SMS & House Keeping**

Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice no.- MCF/RBL/Tender/fabrication work of Roof element/2019-20/C383 dt. 23.09.2019 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/SMS & House Keeping, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for and on behalf of President of India for the following work:-
Description of work: Outsourcing of fabrication work of Roof element complete as per scope of work. **Approx. Value:** ₹ 41,30,000.00 **EMD:** ₹ 82,600.00 **Cost of Tender document:** ₹ 3,000.00 only **Quantity of work:** 250 Coach Set. **Completion period of work:** 12 Months or earlier. • **Period of submission of tender document:** From 02.10.2019 to 16.10.2019 • **Date & time of closing of tender:** 16.10.2019 at 11:45 hrs. • **Date & time of opening of tender:** 16.10.2019 at 12:00 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in in tender document. **Dy. CME/SMS & House Keeping**

E-Tender Notice No.: ELECT-PS-20511-RT **Due on:** 23.09.2019
On behalf of the President of India Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/PS, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli is inviting open e-tender based on single packet system from capable & experienced tenderers through Indian Railways portal www.ireps.gov.in for the under mentioned work. **Details:-** 1 **Name of work:** Provision of Street light in non lighting area of factory premises (Near Khairani gate). 2 **Place of work:** Modern Coach Factory Lalganj, Distt. Raebareli 3 **Approx cost:** ₹ 633529 (₹ Six Lac thirty three thousand five hundred twenty nine only). 4. **Cost of tender:** ₹ 2,000.00 (₹ Two thousand only) 5 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 12700.00 (₹ Twelve thousand seven hundred only) 6 **Period of completion:** 03 Months 7 **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 29.10.2019, 15:30 hrs. 8 **Terms & Conditions:** Other details, terms & conditions are available in tender documents on www.ireps.gov.in **Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/PS**

Serving customers with a smile



Telugu actor Kunath Venu Madhav is no more

HYDERABAD
Telugu actor Kunath Venu Madhav passed away on Wednesday at a city hospital. He was 51 and is survived by wife and two sons. He was ailing for the past few days, and doctors had advised a liver transplant.

CBI takes over probe into murder of BJP worker

NEW DELHI
The CBI has taken over the probe into the 2016 murder of BJP worker Yogesh Gowda in Karnataka's Dharwad. Mr. Gowda was found murdered in his gym on June 15, 2016. The State police had earlier completed the probe and filed a chargesheet against six persons on September 9, 2016. However, after the BJP came to power in Karnataka, it recommended a CBI probe.

SC turns down plea to lay down norms for Speakers

Karnataka's V.H. Kageri had sought guidelines from the top court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Karnataka Assembly Speaker V.H. Kageri has urged the Supreme Court, through his lawyer Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, to lay down guidelines for Speakers.

The Supreme Court promptly refused the idea, telling the Speaker that his office is a constitutional one. The court framing guidelines for the Speaker would be an encroachment by the judiciary into the realm of the legislature. The Speaker is the master of the House, the court explained.

"It is high time Your Lordships lay down guidelines for Speakers," Mr. Mehta suggested to a three-judge Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana. Justice Ramana sharply retorted to Mr. Mehta's suggestion.

"How can we lay down



It is not defection if you give up membership of a political party for reasons of conscience, then you resign and go back to face the public mandate. This is recognition of the MLAs' right to resign

TUSHAR MEHTA
SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

guidelines for the Speaker? He is a constitutional authority... We cannot encroach," Justice Ramana shot back at the top law officer.

Mr. Mehta's proposal came in the few minutes he had sought to explain the position of law to the Bench.

Plea by ex-MLAs

His comment came during the hearing of pleas filed by several former Karnataka MLAs against their disqualification by Mr. Kageri's predecessor in the Speaker's of-

fice, K.R. Ramesh Kumar. Seventeen MLAs from the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) were disqualified by Mr. Kumar on the charge of defection.

Speaker's stand

They argue that they had resigned voluntarily from the House before their disqualification by the Speaker. They have asked the Supreme Court to either stay a recent notification announcing the conduct of by-polls to their constituencies, or in the al-

ternative, allow them to contest the elections due on October 21.

The Solicitor General, for the Speaker, argued that a legislator who first resigns his seat in the Assembly and then joins another party after leaving the House cannot be disqualified under the anti-defection law.

"It is not defection if you give up membership of a political party for reasons of conscience, then you resign and go back to face the public mandate. This is recognition of the MLAs' right to resign," Mr. Mehta submitted.

He argued that changing political parties as an MLA was defection, but resigning from the House and subsequently shifting to another party to face elections does not amount to defection under Schedule 10 of the Constitution.

Jagan-led A.P. govt. not to clear farm loan dues

G.O. issued by the previous TDP government cancelled

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday issued a GO cancelling the orders pertaining to the fourth and fifth instalments of the debt redemption scheme issued by the previous TDP government at the fag end of its term.

The Jagan Mohan Reddy government, however, did not assign any reason for cancelling the orders. It merely said GO 38 dated March 10 was being cancelled following a report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of A.P. Rythu Sadhikara Samstha.

With this, the farmers, ap-

parently, will have to clear dues amounting to ₹7,950 crore. The figure may go up if the interest burden is also taken into account. The government is supposed to deposit the dues in more than 31.44 lakh accounts in the last two instalments.

YSRCP leaders have been asserting that the government will not clear the dues under the debt redemption scheme. People gave mandate to the TDP for five years to implement its electoral promises but it failed to do so, they maintained.

The previous government had resolved to waive loans in five phases and had cleared three. For the last

two instalments, it issued a Budget Release Order (BRO) in March but made no provision in the interim budget presented by it in February.

Replying to a question in the Assembly in July, Agriculture Minister K. Kanna Babu said the last two instalments were pending. On the measures for clearing the dues, the Minister merely said the government was examining the matter.

The scheme was a flagship programme of the TDP government. Banks had arrived at a figure of ₹87,000 crore, but the government brought it down to ₹24,000 crore after issuing guidelines.

Shivakumar's bail plea in money laundering case dismissed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A special court on Wednesday dismissed the bail application of Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate earlier this month on money laundering charge.

"In the course of arguments, the ED has shown certain documents like the list of 317 bank accounts and other documents of properties, etc. which show that investigation is still at the crucial stage of examining the documents and their nexus



D. K. Shivakumar

with the assets of the applicant/account," said Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar in his 31-page order. The court said the accused, as argued by the agency, was an influential person and therefore,

the apprehension that he might influence the witnesses, or tamper with documents, could not be treated as unfounded.

"The release of the applicant at such crucial stage...may hamper the investigation. Therefore, I am of the considered view that the applicant/accused is not entitled for bail at this stage of investigation," it said.

The case had been instituted on a chargesheet filed by the I-T Department last year, alleging tax evasion and 'hawala' transactions running into crores.

Demolition of Maradu flats to start on Oct. 11

Kerala draws up 138-day action plan

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

The demolition of the Maradu apartments in Ernakulam district of Kerala will begin on October 11 and the eviction of apartment dwellers will begin on September 29. The authorities plan to complete the eviction in four days, by October 3, according to a timeline prepared for demolition.

The 138-day timeline, which was accessed by *The Hindu*, serves as the base document on which the action plan for razing the

buildings have been developed. The State government plans to complete the demolition of all the four flats in 90 days.

Meanwhile, the police on Wednesday registered FIRs against three builders, who constructed apartments at Maradu in violation of Coastal Regulation Zone rules.

The police froze around 60 bank accounts of the three builders. No action has been initiated against the fourth builder as no complaint was filed against the firm, the police said.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The District Collector issued prohibitory order under Section 144 of CrPC banning 67 persons from entering the limits of Piravom municipality after the premises of the historic Piravom St. Mary's Church witnessed tense scenes with both factions of the Malankara Church converging at the venue, and confronting each other over the right to celebrate the Mass for the whole of Wednesday.

The Jacobite group, around 50 strong, led by parish priests, celebrated the Mass inside the church in the presence of Catholicos Baselios Thomas I and Metropolitan Trustee Joseph Mar Gregorios and senior bishops. At the same time, the Orthodox group, gath-



Members of the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church inside the St. Mary's Church in Piravom on Wednesday.

ered outside the gates of the church demanding that the police provide them protection to enter the church as per the Supreme Court ruling of July 2017.

The police had been on guard since the Orthodox group sought police protection last week to enter the church and celebrate Mass. But the group alleged that the police colluded with the Jacobites to allow the latter's

entry into the church on Tuesday night.

The Orthodox group, under the leadership of Bishop Thomas Mar Athanasios, stuck to its stand and did not budge as the confrontation continued despite heavy showers during the better part of the day. A large posse of police personnel kept guard over the situation, that often threatened to go out of hand.

झारखण्ड सरकार, झारखण्ड खेल प्राधिकरण
(पर्यटन, कला-संस्कृति, खेलकूद एवं युवाकार्य विभाग)
बिरसा मुण्डा फुटबॉल स्टेडियम, मोरबादी, राँची
sajha9@gmail.com phone No- 0651-2550522

Re-e-TENDER NOTICE

Re-e-Tenders in two parts Part-I (Technical and Commercial) and Part-II (price part) are invited from the reputed tenderers having good experience of following similar type of Civil works and having sound financial status:

NIT No.	Name of the works	Estimated cost in Rs./-	Earnest money to be deposited in Rs./-	Cost of BOQ (Non-Refundable) in Rs./-	Time of completion of work.
4/PR/SAJH A /19-20	Repair of Birsamunda Stadium (A,B,C,D,E,F,G & H block) at Morabadi, Ranchi, Jharkhand.	4,86,49,500/-	4,86,500/-	10,000/-	12 months
5/PR/SAJH A /19-20	Renovation of compound wall, RCC drain with cover & paving work etc at Birsamunda Stadium (A,B,C,D,E, F, G & H) block), Morabadi, Ranchi	1,10,51,600/-	2,21,100/-	10,000/-	08 months
6/PR/SAJH A /19-20	Repair of plumbing & sanitation work at Birsamunda Stadium (A,B,C,D,E, F,G & H block) at Morabadi, Ranchi, Jharkhand.	1,22,10,328/-	2,44,300/-	10,000/-	08 months

Availability of tender documents on website	From 24-09-2019 at 11.00 AM to 09-10-2019 up to 5.00 PM
Last date and time for uploading of e-tender	Up to 09-10-2019 up to 5.00 PM
Last date and time for physical submission of original Demand Draft towards cost of BOQ and Earnest Money.	Up to 10-10-2019 up to 4.00 PM
Date and time for opening of Tender Part-I (Technical and Commercial)	At 3.30 PM on 11-10-2019
Date and time for opening of Tender Part-II (Price Part)	At 3.30 PM on 18-10-2019
Tendering Officer and address for communication	Executive Director office, SAJHA, Morabadi, Ranchi

1. Re-e-Tender documents and BOQ including terms & conditions, specification etc. can be downloaded and submitted online on website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>.

2. Cost of tender/ BOQ, Earnest money with one set of uploaded tender documents before one day of the date of opening of tender on 10-10-2019 at 4:00 p.m In the office of **Executive Director**, Sports Authority of Jharkhand, Morabadi, Ranchi shall be deposited. Only those tenders will entertained whose cost of tender/BOQ and Earnest money and tender documents is received at 4.00 PM before one day of the date of opening of tender.

जिसे अब तक ना समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हूँ मैं।
Executive Director
Sports Authority of Jharkhand
PR 217756 (Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs)19-20#D

कार्यालय
विद्युत कार्यपालक द्रष्टृश्रियता
विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, धनबाद
शुद्धि-पत्र

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1679 दिनांक 19.09.19 से प्रेषित तथा PR No. 217505 (Energy) 19-20 D को दिनांक 21.09.19 द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित अतिअल्पकालीन ईओ-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं 12 / 19-20 में Date of submission of hard copy की तिथि 01.10.19 को 3.30 P.M एवं Technical Bid Opening Date 09.10.19 को 10.30 A.M के स्थान पर क्रमशः Date of submission of hard copy दिनांक 01.10.19 को 1.00 P.M एवं Technical Bid Opening Date 01.10.19 को 3.00 P.M पड़ा जाय। सभी शर्तें सथावत रहेगा।

बुद्ध - बुद्ध नहीं बरतेगे तो बुद्ध को तरतेगे
PR.217879 Energy(19-20)-D

विद्युत कार्यपालक अश्रियता
विद्युत कार्य प्रमण्डल, धनबाद

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Phone no. 01905- 222172
E-Mail: ee-elem-hp@nic.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Electrical Division, HPPWD, Mandi HP on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the Principal manufacturer / OEM (VRV System) or Authorized agency of OEM for the following works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Starting date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of bid
1.	Construction of MCH Building at Sunder Nagar District-Mandi HP (SH: Providing VRV System therein HVAC System without lobbies/waiting area)	Rs. 12245886/-	09.10.2019 at 10.00 A.M	Rs. 155000/-	18.10.2019 at 10.00 A.M

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders and Technical Qualification Criteria from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Electrical Division,
HP-PWD, Mandi HP 175001
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
HP/2220/19-20

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Dist:- Saran), Bihar-841221

Open E-Tender Notice No: RWP/STORES/WORKS/ADVT/2019-20/04, Dated: 23.09.2019. "Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites online 'e-Open Tender' through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) www.ireps.gov.in for transportation of 1. Name of work with its location and completion period: Transportation of Light Melting Scrap (LMS) from Various Railway Units to Rail Wheel Plant, Bela Dist- Saran, Bihar for distance slab 501-1000 KM (Avg. lead distance 1000KM)" Quantity: 55,44,000 MT-KM, Completion period: 12 months from the date of issuance of LOA. 2. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 2,25,44,468/- 3. Earnest Money to be Deposited: ₹ 2,63,300/- 4. Tender closing date and time: 25.10.2019 up to 14.00 hrs. 5. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc: For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) www.ireps.gov.in. This Tender Notice is also available on the official website of Rail Wheel Plant, Bela www.indianrailways.gov.in. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (www.ireps.gov.in) for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

Principal Chief Materials Manager
Rail Wheel Plant, Bela.
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2019-20/39

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi
Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minorities, and OBC Welfare Department

Ref no. 1146Ranchi Dated 20.09.2019
Short Expression of Interest

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested **Film Agencies/Production houses or Firm /Govt. Organization** (Preference will be given to them who were born and brought up in Jharkhand and are fully acquainted with the Customs & Traditions, Totems, and Taboos, History, and Philosophy of the tribal communities 'especially Santhal, Mahali, Munda, Oraon, Kharia and other tribal communities residing in and around Ranchi and in the state of Jharkhand') for undertaking a study and making of Video documentary Project of TRI, Ranchi during the year 2019-2020:

TOPIC: On the Socio-Economic-Cultural-Religious aspects of Jharkhand Tribal People (Tribes of Ran-ji and Other districts) residing in Andaman and Nicobar with Special reference to change in their livelihood pattern.

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) along with technical bid giving relevant details of the organization necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 10/10/2019 by 4.30 P.M. The price should be all-inclusive of (all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open-ended.

The intending agencies may submit their bid in a sealed envelope on or before the due date. The technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in **BOLD "A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR TOPIC: On the Socio-Economic-Cultural-Religious aspects of Jha-khand Tribal People (Tribes of Ranchi and Other districts) residing in Andaman and Nicobar with Special reference to change in their livelihood pattern.**

(Please specify the name of the concerned work)" written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of tender document sent by post.

Technical Bid will be opened on 16/10/2019 at 3.00 P.M in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi.

Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for the presentation of the project.

Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details can be obtained from the office of the TRI on any working day during office hour to meet concerned Nodal person and the same can also be downloaded from the website www.prdjharkhand.in or through E-mail tri.directorate@gmail.com by specifying the topic & details of Institution / Organization Interested.

TRI, Ranchi reserves all rights to accept or reject all or any of the EOI's at any stage without assigning any reasons. TRI, Ranchi also reserves the right to engage/impanel one or more firms depending on requirements.

Sd/-
Director
PR 217385 (Welfare)19-20#D

जिसे अब तक ना समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हूँ मैं।

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute,
Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minorities, and OBC Welfare Department
Ranchi-8
Ref no. 1145Ranchi Dated 20.09.2019
Short Expression of Interest

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested **Film Agencies/Production houses or Firm /Govt. The organization** (Preference will be given to them who are born and brought up in Jharkhand and are fully acquainted with the cultural and religious aspects their language and oral history, songs and dances, fairs and festivals, traditions and rituals, history and philosophy of the tribes. Listed for study for undertaking a study and making of Video documentary Project of TRI, Ranchi during the year 2019-2020:-

TOPIC: Tribal Songs and dances of life cycle rituals (Birth, Naming, Marriage and Death), Agricultural festivals with the publication of coffee table book.

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) along with technical bid giving relevant details of the organization necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 10/10/2019 by 4.30 P.M. The price should be all-inclusive of (all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open-ended.

The intending agencies may submit their bid in a sealed envelope on or before the due date. The technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in **BOLD "A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR TOPIC: Tribal Songs and dances of life cycle rituals (Birth, Naming, Marriage and Death), Agricultural festivals with the publication of coffee table book.**

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TRI, Ranchi reserves all rights to accept or reject all or any of the EOI's at any stage without assigning any reasons. TRI, Ranchi also reserves the right to engage/empanel one or more firms depending on requirements.

Sd/-
Director
PR 217684 (Welfare) 19-20 (D)

जिसे अब तक ना समझे, वो कहानी हूँ मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हूँ मैं।

Tender Ref no.:kha..up.Ni.01 (ChiniVitranoYojna)- 08/19 - 1238
Dated- 24/09/2019

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs
Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel, HEC Sector-III
Dhurwa, Ranchi- 834004

Reverse Auction Procurement Notice

"Tender Notice for Empanelment of Suppliers for Supply of Free Flow White Crystal Sugar (Grade-S-30/M-30) for 4th Quarter (Jan-Mar'20) of Financial Year 2019-20 under Reverse Auction Mode on platform of NeML"

1	Tender published on website	24/09/2019
2	Name of the Client	Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs, Govt. of Jharkhand, Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel, HEC Dhurwa, Ranchi- 834004
3	Address and concerned person for Correspondence	Customer servi e Centre - NCDEX e Markets limited, 101/101T, Akruti corporate park, 1 st floor, Near GE Garden, L.B.S Marg, Kanjur marg (west) Mumbai -400078 Tel - 022- 48810555 or 775500216E- mail-askus@neinl.in
4	Registration Fees	Rs5000/-only(Non-refundable)+GST(as applicable)
5	EMD	2% of the value of Tender
6	Quantity (in Qt)	27215
6	Last Date of Document Submission	16/10/2019
7	Date of Reverse Auction	18/10/2019

1. All eligible Individuals or partnership firm, Registered Company or Co-operative society or any legal organization should mandatorily register with NCDEX e-Markets Limited for participation in Reverse Auction.

2. The schedule of Auction to be conducted on date 18/10/2019 will be posted on website- <http://jharkhand.gov.in/food>.

3. Any changes/ modification in the Tender documents in the tender documents will be posted on website- <http://jharkhand.gov.in/food>

PR 217906 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs (19-20)_D
Director
(Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs)

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

Sunil

General public is here by informed that this person namely Sunil S/o Ramkishan R/o 173, Rajpura, Gurmandi, Delhi **Age** : 45 years, **Height** : 5'6", **Face** : Long, **Complexion** : Fair, **Build** : Thin, wearing sky blue colour shirt, black colour pant and blue & white colour shoes in feet, has been missing since 07.09.2019. In this regard DD No. 100-A dated 07.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Model Town, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following:-

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 24368639,
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO
P.S. Model Town, Delhi
Tel. No. : 011-27459202,
274560072

DP/9393/NW/19
A NO-NDE

New IPCC report warns of dire threat to oceans

Increased temperatures, marine heatwaves, more frequent extreme El Niño and La Niña events likely

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
With representatives from nearly 200 countries at the United Nations Climate Summit underway in the United States, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the apex referee for scientific evidence on the impact of global warming – made public a special report on Wednesday that underlined the dire changes taking place in oceans, glaciers and ice-deposits on land and sea.

‘Unprecedented’
“Over the 21st century, the ocean is projected to transition to unprecedented conditions with increased tem-

peratures, further ocean acidification, marine heatwaves and more frequent extreme El Niño and La Niña events,” according to a summary of the report made available to policy-makers.

The report updates scientific literature available since 2015 – when the IPCC released its comprehensive 5th Assessment Report – and summarises the disastrous impacts of warming based on current projections of global greenhouse gas emissions.

“It is virtually certain that the global ocean has warmed unabated since 1970 and has taken up more than 90% of the excess heat



Disaster ahead: The report updates literature available since 2015 and summarises the impacts of warming. • PTI

total heat gain in the upper 2,000 m of global ocean between 1970 and 2017, and its share increased to 45%-62% between 2005 and 2017.

The ‘Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate’ was prepared following an IPCC Panel decision in 2016 to prepare three Special Reports and follows the Special Reports on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR1.5), and on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL).

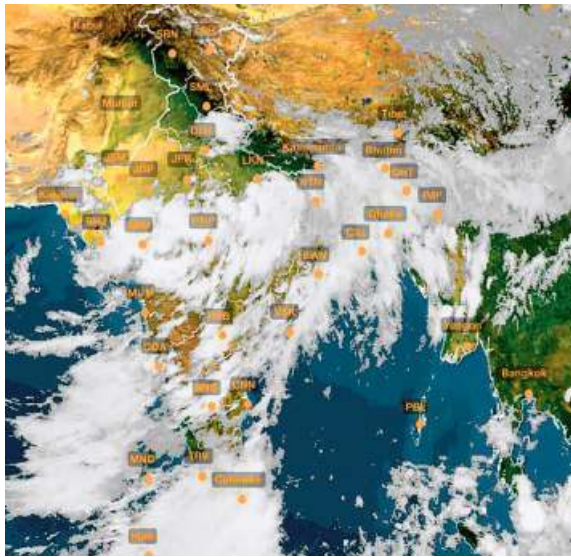
Countries’ commitment
The 1.5°C report was a key input used in negotiations at Katowice, Poland last year for countries to com-

mit themselves to capping global temperature rise to 1.5°C by the end of the century. “A major impact is in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Regions,” said Anjal Prakash, a researcher at The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) School of Advanced Studies, and among those involved with the report.

“Floods will become more frequent and severe in the mountainous and downstream areas of the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra river basins, because of an increase in extreme precipitation events. The severity of flood events is expected to more than double towards the end of the century,” she added

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY





TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	66.5	32.0	24.0	Kozhikode	4.6	32.4	25.0
Ahmedabad	34.2	26.3	24.8	Kurnool	24.8	33.1	1.2
Aizawl	36.0	24.9	19.1	Lucknow	0.8	29.5	25.2
Allahabad	29.9	25.8	24.1	Madurai	3.4	31.8	24.1
Bengaluru	23.6	28.8	21.0	Mangaluru	16.3	32.3	23.5
Bhopal	2.2	29.8	23.8	Mumbai	30.2	31.3	24.0
Bhubaneswar	126.0	28.5	23.2	Mysuru	29.8	29.1	19.1
Chandigarh	33.0	25.7	24.5	New Delhi	34.2	24.5	24.5
Chennai	10.0	32.5	25.7	Patna	33.0	25.8	25.8
Coimbatore	32.5	23.6	24.2	Port Blair	2.8	30.5	24.2
Dehradun	30.7	32.2	22.8	Puducherry	0.8	33.2	22.0
Gangtok	7.4	19.5	15.7	Pune	87.3	32.2	20.8
Goa	53.7	23.8	24.6	Raipur	21.0	31.4	24.6
Guwahati	51.2	27.6	22.4	Ranchi	20.8	29.2	21.0
Hubballi	27.0	22.0	15.4	Shillong	10.0	22.6	15.4
Hyderabad	75.0	30.8	22.0	Shimla	23.1	14.5	14.5
Imphal	5.3	24.9	19.5	Srinagar	33.0	25.8	25.8
Jaipur	0.8	31.8	23.4	Thiruvananthapuram	14.3	28.9	24.2
Kochi	57.8	29.0	23.1	Tiruchi	1.4	33.3	25.2
Kohima	9.5	22.0	15.8	Vijayawada	5.9	31.3	25.0
Kolkata	80.5	30.9	24.3	Visakhapatnam	49.0	31.4	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing						Yesterday
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad.....	93	139	116	128	103	
Bengaluru.....	03	38	56	36		In observation made at 6:00 pm, Ahmedabad, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 138 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In Asanol, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 19
Chennai.....	05	13	69	37		
Delhi.....	06	42	28	72	275	
Hyderabad.....	02	16	24			
Kolkata.....	03	36	65	16	52	
Lucknow.....	04	35	59	105		
Mumbai.....	07	23	90	18		
Pune.....	86	08	67	28	28	
Visakhapatnam.....	16	45	44	28	34	

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IN BRIEF



SP leader Azam Khan gets stay from arrest
LUCKNOW
The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday granted relief to Rampur MP Azam Khan as it issued a stay on his arrest in connect on with the cases filed against him by the Uttar Pradesh government. He has been slapped with over a two dozen cases, including charges of land grabbing.

CBI SP applies for voluntary retirement
NEW DELHI
Satish Dagar, the Central Bureau of Investigation Superintendent of Police who is part of the team probing a case against the then Special Director Rakesh Asthana, has applied for voluntary retirement, a CBI spokesperson said on Wednesday.

ED attaches assets worth ₹33 crore in IOB case
NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached assets worth ₹33.84 crore in a buyers-credit fraud case involving ₹299 crore of the Indian Overseas Bank. The probe is based on an FIR registered against IOB employee Ashu Mehra, Heights International, Vision Procon and Saibhakti Implex.

Kashmir's famed saffron gets GI tag
SRINAGAR
Kashmir's famed saffron has finally been granted the Geographic Indication (GI) tag, which is likely to boost its market and ensure quality control. Officials said the final meeting regarding the tag was held on September 23 in New Delhi.

Unnao: CBI granted more time

SC gives 2 weeks to file chargesheet in accident case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The CBI on Wednesday sought more time from the Supreme Court to record a statement from the lawyer involved in the road accident along with the Unnao rape case survivor on July 28 near Rae Bareilly.

Both the girl and the lawyer were shifted to the AIIMS for advanced medical treatment from a Lucknow hospital on the orders of the apex court.

A Bench led by Justice Deepak Gupta agreed to give the CBI two weeks more to complete its probe into the accident case and file a chargesheet in the trial court.

The court scheduled the



next hearing for October.

Probe into accident
In the last hearing on September 6, the Bench had similarly given the CBI a fortnight to complete its probe into the ‘accident’.

The collision with a truck left the girl and her lawyer critically injured while two

Rape survivor discharged from AIIMS
LUCKNOW
The 2017 Unnao rape survivor has been discharged from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here on Wednesday after spending two months at the hospital. She will now be staying with her family in Delhi. The family has said they were apprehensive about returning to Uttar Pradesh. She was brought to Delhi after she met with an accident on July 28.

of her relatives were killed.

On August 1, the court had transferred five cases of crimes committed against the Unnao rape survivor and her family from a CBI court in Lucknow to its counterpart in Delhi. It had also ordered the Uttar Pradesh government to pay her ₹25 lakh as interim compensation.

Swami Chinmayanand not a party member: BJP
LUCKNOW
The BJP on Wednesday said former Minister Swami Chinmayanand, accused of rape by a law student of his college, is no longer a member of the party. “He is not a member of the BJP,” party spokesperson Harishchandra Srivastava said. The spokesperson, however, failed to mention from when he ceased to be a member of the party. • PTI

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi had on that day ordered that the trial in the Unnao cases be held on a day-to-day basis and completed within 45 days.

The court had even gone the extra mile to zero in on District Judge Dharmesh Sharma as the trial judge.

Crash course



Charred remains: People gathering at the site where a MiG-21 trainer jet crashed near the Gwalior airbase in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. Two pilots ejected safely. • PTI

Former Minister slaps supporter at BJD event

Video of the incident goes viral

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR
Chandrasekhar Sahu, former Union Minister and BJD MP from Odisha's Berhampur, apparently lost his temper at an event and slapped a newly inducted party worker on stage at Paralakhemundi of Gajapati district on Tuesday.

Video clips of the incident during a BJD party meeting has gone viral on the social media.

Sangram Sahu, former Youth Congress president of Gajapati district, was at the

meeting, with several other Congress workers, to join the ruling BJD. The workers were being welcomed with a shawl around their neck. Sangram Sahu wanted the Minister to do the honours and the latter then reaches out and slaps him apparently in a fit of anger.

Mr. Sangram claimed the MP had only reprimanded him like an elder brother would with a gentle touch.

Mr. Sahu admitted that he had lost his cool and the whole episode could have been avoided.

Drug regulators caution against ranitidine use

Patients asked to avoid over-the-counter use; State bodies told to take measures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Indian doctors have advised patients here to avoid over-the-counter (OTC) use of popular antacid ranitidine, following concerns over its contamination by cancer-causing substances, with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) now having started the process of “checking for any ad-

verse reactions of the drug”.

CDSCO has written to State regulators, asking that they “communicate to the manufacturers of ranitidine active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and formulations under your jurisdiction to verify their products and take appropriate measures to ensure patient safety”.

The regulator notes that it is aware of reports from oth-

er countries that some ranitidine medicines contain a nitrosamine impurity called N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) at low levels.

‘Probably carcinogenic’
The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) V.G. Somani in the letter further notes that NDMA has been classified by the International Agency for Research on Can-

cer as “probably carcinogenic” to humans.

“Ranitidine is approved for multiple indications in the country and available in various formulations including tablets, injections, etc. The drug is a prescription drug included in Schedule-H and should be sold by retail only under prescription of Registered Medical Practitioner,” the letter noted.

Meghalaya tests medicine delivery using drones

Access to anti-venom has been an issue: official

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI
Venomous snakes have played a role in an experiment to deliver life-saving drugs to remote areas of Meghalaya by drones.

“Access to life-saving drugs, such as anti-venom vials, has been a major issue in Meghalaya. The number of snake-bite cases is one of the reasons behind trying out drones for carrying medicines to remote areas,” Calvin H. Kharshiing, Planning Advisor of North Eastern Council (NEC), told *The Hindu* from

Meghalaya capital Shillong on Wednesday.

The NEC, a nodal agency for funding developmental projects in the region, had initiated a pilot project on drone delivery of medicines and blood a week ago.

The project is being undertaken in collaboration with the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences and North Eastern Space Application Centre.

The State is also hamstrung by the shortage of trained manpower.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Tender Notice No.OHE/CN/Dy.CEE/ 2019-20/03 Dated : 24.09.2019

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/OHE, Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-Tender for the following works.

“Power supply installation works in connection with the doubling of tracks between Salem and Omalur in Salem Division of Southern Railway”

Date of opening of Tender : 21.10.2019

For more details visit www.ireps.gov.in

Dy.Chief Electrical Engineer/OHE Electrical Construction/Ch-8

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack

1. Sealed tenders are invited from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or their Authorized Agent for purchase of 400 Sets of PS AFIS Software, Single Digit Live Scanner and Web Camera for Odisha Police (SCRB) during the current financial year 2019-20 as listed below.

Sl.No.	Name of Item	Approximate quantity
1.	PS AFIS Software, Single Digit Live Scanner and Web Camera	400

2. Name of items along with detail Technical Specifications, probable requirements against each item may be seen from the Web site of the Govt. of Odisha i.e. www.odisha.gov.in. The quantity may vary during indent of the items depending upon budgetary allocation.

3. Date of Issue of Tender documents from dtd.13.09.2019 at 10.00 AM to dtd.09.10.2019 up to 5.00 PM.

4. Last date for receipt of sealed Tender on dtd.10.10.2019 up to 5.00 PM.

5. Date for opening of sealed Tenders / Technical Bids on dtd. 11.10.2019 at 11.30 AM at the Office of Director, State Crime Records Bureau, Odisha, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar.

132-D: A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning), Odisha, Cuttack. (Tender Calling Authority)

12018/11/0011/1920

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
All India Council for Technical Education
(Implementing Agency),
Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070
Ph. No. : 011-29581000, Website: www.aicte-india.org

National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT):
A Scheme for using technology for better learning outcomes
Expression of Interest by Education Technology Companies offering Solutions for Higher Education

Artificial Intelligence can be used to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner. A number of ‘Education Technology (Ed-Tech) Companies’ have developed technologies in Adaptive Learning to address the diversity of learners and /or are offering certification in highly marketable skills. MHRD would like to partner with such Ed-Tech companies through All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) as the implementation agency.

Selected education technology solutions would be showcased on the NEAT platform, developed by AICTE, thereby enabling wide outreach among learners.

Ed-Tech companies interested to partner with MHRD in this National effort can share their Expression of Interest (Eoi) through the online portal at www.aicte-india.org till **20th October 2019**.

Detailed terms and conditions regarding the alliance for the EOI may be downloaded from the AICTE website at www.aicte-india.org. The portal would be open from 27th September 2019.

Advt.No. Innovation/09(02)/2019
Member Secretary, AICTE



The real deal

Even a limited trade agreement between India and the U.S. is some distance away

After the backslapping bonhomie and high of Houston, it was time for a reality check in New York. Contrary to expectations that were consciously generated and managed by both sides, India and the United States failed to arrive at a limited trade deal that was to have been announced during this visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the U.S. The deal stumbled over duties imposed by India on ICT (information and communication technology) products – the U.S. wanted the 20% duty on mobile phones and ethernet switches to be reduced or eliminated. America is also understood to have demanded greater access to the Indian market for medical devices such as stents and knee implants apart from its dairy and agricultural products. These are sensitive products politically for the Indian side as Mr. Modi has often taken credit for making them affordable. Loosening price controls now is not an option for India as that would push up prices of these products in the country. For its part, India wanted the Generalised System of Preferences which gives preferential market access for its products in the U.S., restored. These are so far as a “limited trade deal” goes; a full scale trade agreement would pose bigger challenges on issues such as intellectual property, e-commerce and the ticklish subject of HIB visas.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale has said that the two sides “narrowed” down their differences and made “significant progress” but it is clear that there is still a wide gulf even assuming that India is willing to go more than half the way to strike a deal. That a deal could not be struck despite Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal winging his way to New York to lead negotiations tells the story. For U.S. President Trump, even a limited deal with India will be something to talk about as he approaches election year. This is especially because trade talks with China are going nowhere. China has not only taken Mr. Trump’s punitive tariffs on its chin but has retaliated in kind, picking the products that could hurt his constituency and supporters. This explains the hectic, behind-the-scenes activity with India in the last few weeks. With its economy in the grip of a major slowdown, any concessions from India on imports of American products may not have gone down well both politically and in economic terms. Going by the limited information in the public domain, it appears that India has played tough and refused to yield to U.S. demands. Trade negotiations are never easy and for them to succeed, both sides have to believe in a policy of give and take. It does not help if one side tries to bulldoze the other into submitting totally to its interests. At this point in time it does seem that even a limited trade deal between India and the U.S. is some distance away.

Brexit Interrupted

Boris Johnson has lost his way while seeking to navigate Britain out of the European Union

The U.K. Supreme Court’s landmark ruling that the prorogation of the British Parliament was unlawful has rendered Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s continuance morally untenable. While the judges dwelt at length on the limits of executive power and the detrimental effects of the suspension on the country’s democratic process, they scrupulously steered clear of pronouncing any views on Britain’s withdrawal from the EU. Yet, eurosceptics have attacked the verdict as one that was influenced by a pro-remain establishment elite. For his part, Mr. Johnson remains defiant that he may seek another prorogation to commence a fresh session with the Queen’s address. There is no indication that he would step down. Notwithstanding its response, the government’s options over leaving the EU have considerably reduced. Above all, Mr. Johnson is duty-bound to respect the law enacted by Parliament earlier this month to prevent him from taking the U.K. out of the EU without an agreement on October 31. Failing which, he is obliged to seek a three-month extension under Article 50 of the EU treaty.

With the 21 Conservative rebel MPs sacked for defying the whip on that crucial legislation, Mr. Johnson also lost his majority in the Commons during that tumultuous week before the prorogation. His attempt to circumvent the will of Parliament by calling a general election was similarly rebuffed. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has in the past demanded the government’s resignation over its failure to negotiate an EU agreement that could command cross-party approval. But in the changed circumstances of recent weeks, he has rightly prioritised securing a further extension from the EU pending a definitive agreement, over moving a vote of no-confidence against Mr. Johnson’s minority government. That position does not seem to warrant modification even in the aftermath of the Supreme Court verdict, unless the Labour leader’s alternative of a national unity government – only to see through the EU extension and subsequent elections – draws wider support. Mr. Corbyn’s party is also correct about its decision to defer calls for a second referendum until it has captured power. Retaining the latter as the very last option would commend itself as a democratic alternative both to EU remainers and leavers. The Labour party’s current stance is consistent with the country’s utmost urgency to avert a costly and chaotic exit, as also to install a stable government at Westminster. The introduction of customs checks in Northern Ireland, as an alternative to a U.K.-wide customs union, is a possible item in the fresh proposals Mr. Johnson’s team is expected to unveil in Brussels in early October. If they elicit backing from the rest of the bloc, the next challenge would be to gain domestic approval. A third Brexit extension would be insurance against uncertainty on those two counts.

An award and an unholy trade-off

Being the ‘Global Goalkeeper’ stands in contrast with the government’s script of providing social goods but not freedoms



NEERA CHANDHOKE

The Gates Foundation has awarded Prime Minister Narendra Modi its annual ‘Global Goalkeeper’ Award for initiating policies to advance the cause of public health and the building of several million toilets. The Swachh Bharat Mission and policies and programmes to build toilets can hardly be faulted, even if the outcomes are disputed. The award has, however, set off a politically charged debate within and outside India. A substantial number of global human rights activists, and three Nobel Prize winners, have criticised the Gates Foundation for naming Mr. Modi as a beneficiary of this prestigious award. Under his leadership, they write, India has descended into dangerous and deadly chaos that has consistently undermined human rights and democracy. “This is particularly troubling to us as the stated mission of your foundation is to preserve life and fight inequity,” wrote Nobel laureates Mairead Maguire, a peace activist from Northern Ireland, Tawakkol Abdel-Salam Karman, a Yemeni journalist and politician, and Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian lawyer and political activist.

Freedoms at stake

This is not the first time that the trade-off between the right to life, liberty and freedom of expression on the one hand, and state provision of social goods on the other, has troubled theorists and defenders of human rights. Benevolent

dictators have accomplished precisely this feat. They grant to their people the basic preconditions of life, but take away the right to freedom. Mr. Modi’s government has followed the script faithfully. The government concentrates on the delivery of social goods. The policy reaped rich electoral dividends in May 2019.

At the same time, human rights activists have been jailed without a shred of substantive evidence, civil society organisations are denied funds and harassed, mob violence is routinely dished out to members of the minority community, 19 lakh people have been declared non-residents in Assam, media houses have to fall in line if they want to survive, prominent Opposition politicians are put into prison and humiliated without regard for due process, and an army of vicious trolls ensures that no one dares engage with the government. Above all, we see massive violations of rights in Jammu and Kashmir, from the arbitrary dilution of the provisions of Article 370, to the infringement of every fundamental right granted by the Constitution. A new question hangs heavily over the horizon. Are citizens of India, heirs of a major freedom struggle that took on the gigantic British Empire in the cause of freedom, satisfied with, in Marx’s words, ‘a mess of pottage’ instead of the right to life, liberty and freedom of expression?

An unsettling swap

An affirmative answer might well be a tragedy in the making. We witness the forging of an unholy swap between toilets, gas connections, drinking water, and freedom. The beleaguered people of J&K are offered development as balm for their wounds. But development is the original chimera.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

What constitutes development, development for whom, at what cost, who loses and who wins? Freedom is natural to human kind, it is part of the human condition, it lies at the heart of democratic theory, it is the reason why democracy exists, and it justifies the existence of democracy.

In his inaugural speech as the President of South Africa on May 10, 1994, the great statesman Nelson Mandela summarised the role of freedom in history: “Let freedom reign. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement.” Mandela knew history, he knew that inglorious unfreedom motivated people to fight glorious battles for freedom. Positioning themselves against regimes bent on appropriating power to control what people thought, what their actions were, what they read, heard, wrote of, spoke of, dramatised and what transactions they participated in, democratic movements throughout history have held up the flag of freedom as the ‘absence of external impediments’. “Yes Freedom!” Lord Byron was to write in his *Childe Harold*, “yet thy banner, torn, but flying, Streams like the thunderstorm against the wind.”

The emergence of liberty as a dominant and coherent concept in political discourse during the

Different peas in different pods

Unlike IT, it would be a mistake to look at the biotechnology sector through the lens of employment generation only



BINAY PANDA

India is among the first countries to set up a specialised Agency for the development of research and human resources in the biotechnology sector. More than three decades later, it is imperative to ask: has the biotechnology sector lived up to its promise? Or was it all faux optimism? More importantly, is the sector poised to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with, if not beat, the IT sector in creating jobs for the future? One needs to go beyond the traditional indicators such as the numbers of institutions formed, students and scientists trained, and the number of patents filed to judge the sector’s performance, and its impact on the economy and society as a whole.

Modern biotechnological research is expensive. It requires a highly trained and skilled workforce and access to expensive instruments. So far, most of the high-quality research output has come from a handful of institutions with better scientific infrastructure. The rest, which forms the bulk of the research publications, is of mediocre quality. This is primarily due to a “publish or perish” culture that incentivises numbers over quality. Over the years, the focus of research has slowly shifted from fundamental to applied research. Why has India not produced another Jagadish Chandra Bose or G.N. Ramachandran despite the biotechnology research budget growing several folds? The fruits of applied research will only come when we

start investing in basic research without asking for quick returns. While continuing and increasing the share of funding in basic research, the government should encourage and incentivise the private sector to invest substantially in applied research. Compared to the developed economies (the United States), biotechnology research in India is minimally funded by the public exchequer. Unless the private sector starts supporting applied research and engages with academic institutions, the innovation in applied and translational biotechnology will be minimal.

Field-specific issues

Let us look at the creation of human resources and jobs in the biotechnology sector. In India, unlike the IT sector, a large pool of the English-speaking workforce, low wages of scientists (compared to the developed economies) and a sizeable institutional research base have not helped create more jobs in biotechnology. There may be several possible reasons. Biotechnology research often requires access to laboratories with high-end scientific infrastructure, the supply of expensive chemicals and reagents with minimum shipping time between the supplier and the user, and a disciplined work culture and documentation practice due to regulatory and intellectual property filing requirements. Additionally, unlike the products and solutions from the IT industry, biotechnology products and solutions often require ethical and regulatory clearance, making the process long, expensive and cumbersome.

As the nature of the work in the biotechnology sector is specialised, most jobs are filled with experienced and skilled scientists leaving the demand for young and inexperienced ones low. In a glo-



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bal marketplace, having a large number of young professionals hungry to work at meagre wage coupled with the need of large corporations in the West to get work done cheaper created some of the large IT companies in India.

Advantage China

However, for the biotechnology industry, the same honour went to China. Unlike India, China has many more labs with the best of scientific infrastructure; each with more number of skilled human resources trained in regimental work culture and trained to practise rigorous documentation. Chinese students and scientists outnumber Indians nearly 5:1 in most American universities in the life sciences/biology-related disciplines.

A booming economy and a higher science budget coupled with a flexible hiring system have made Chinese universities and research labs attract many overseas Chinese scientists. Our government needs to make the process of hiring in our universities and national labs simpler and flexible, not necessarily provide more salary, to attract the bright overseas Indian scientists.

Last, let us look at innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology creation. Unlike the IT sector, the biotechnology sector requires

French Revolution in 1789, signified a ruptural moment in the biography of the political. The recognition of the significance of freedom represented the acme of what John Stuart Mill called the struggle between liberty and authority. The idea of freedom is in direct contrast to paternalistic statecraft, or the belief that those who would be controllers of our destiny know better than us what we need, aspire, and strive towards. These people might be colonialists, or our own rulers. It does not matter, fight we must against unfreedom, as people have fought since the 18th century.

Challenging unfreedom

We have come a long way since then. From the last decades of the 19th century, right into the first two decades of the 21st, victims of unfreedom began to speak back to makers of oppression and exploitation. Political movements of the working classes, of the peasantry, of women denied political rights, of the colonised, and of religious, linguistic, and racial minorities directly challenged unfreedom as a violation of what is due to human beings. As this upsurge imprinted collective consciousness, it impacted both political practices and normative political theory.

Today, political theorists realise that bare concern about freedom is simply not enough. A hungry individual cannot be a free individual. Poverty and hunger which trap human beings in a never-ending spiral of want and deprivation diminish freedom. These maladies of the human condition strip her of the option to do, or not to do. A person may be theoretically free to do whatever she thinks makes her life worthwhile. And yet she may not be able to do so for other reasons – because she has never been

to school. In order to, say, write a novel an individual must have a certain amount of literary competence, she must have access to education, to books in the library or in the bookshops, she must be able to attend literary discussion groups if she wants to, to simply be a part of a community that appreciates reading and writing. If a budding literary giant cannot afford to do so, because she belongs to a poor family, she cannot be free. Therefore, there is need for social goods as prerequisites of a life lived the way we want to live.

Democratic obligation

The democratic state is obliged to provide citizens with the basic preconditions for the exercise of freedom: health, education, sustainable living wage, satisfying work conditions, food and a decent standard of life. These social goods are, however but, milestones on the road to freedom. A democratic government can hardly give people subsidised food, and take away their right to express what they desire and dream of, what they expect of their representatives, or what is owed to them as free citizens of a free country. The right to freedom tells each ruler: this is how human beings have to be treated, this is their due; below this you cannot fall. This right cannot be dispensed with.

The stand-off between toilets and the right to freedom is based on false premises. Without the provision of social goods, the right of human beings to make their own lives is neutralised. But a life of unfreedom is no life at all. Social goods are enabling, freedom is life-giving. Without freedom we are stripped of our humanity.

Neera Chandhoke is a former Professor of Political Science at Delhi University

years of experience in the domain, access to labs with sophisticated instruments, sustained and long-term funding to innovate. The government has been supporting biotech entrepreneurs. Initiatives through the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) of the Department of Biotechnology to support the innovation ecosystems have resulted in an impressive outcome. For example, the funding has helped startup companies make nearly 50 biotechnology-related products that are in the market today. Moving beyond this, however, will require a different strategy and understanding of the mature biotech-led innovation and economic ecosystems. Two successful hotbeds for biotech innovation, Boston and Silicon Valley in the U.S., may provide us some clues.

A road map

Along with the availability of funding, infrastructure and skilled workforce, the presence of top-notch research institutions and universities in the vicinity make these two places among the most attractive locations for biotech startup companies anywhere. Unlike the IT and e-commerce space, ideas for biotechnology companies are initiated in scientific research labs while their parent academic institutions work as feeders of intellectual property. Often technology is incubated, refined and tested for years in academic labs before it gets spun out. Therefore, and unlike the IT sector, a sustained innovation and product development model in the biotechnology field without enriching the academic institutions is not possible.

The government is very encouraging and promoting entrepreneurship, but the culture of institutions and scientists to be

entrepreneurial will take time. This will require a flexible policy in the institutes to allow scientists incubate startup companies in their labs while retaining their positions. Second, the government should let scientists from research institutions and universities take unpaid leave to join the industry for a fixed period. Similarly, the government should relax rules to appoint researchers from industry in faculty positions with the freedom to teach, participate, and take students. This academia-industry linkage will do the much-required communication and understanding of the problems at both ends. Without a sustained effort in encouraging and promoting science-driven innovation in our academic institutions, and a robust academia-industry collaboration, biotechnology-led innovation will not aid the nation’s economic growth.

The future of biotechnology is bright in India. However, the sector is not going to displace the IT sector anytime soon in employment generation. Discoveries in biotechnology may help us solve some of the pressing societal issues of our time: cleaning our rivers, producing life-saving drugs, feeding our growing population with nutritious food and helping us clean the air we breathe. Therefore, it will be a mistake to look at the biotechnology sector through the lens of employment generation only. The need for the use of artificial intelligence-based tools and applications of big data in biology will leverage India’s strength in IT and move biotech innovations faster to the marketplace. Till then, India needs to do things patiently and work on the right side of the ethical and regulatory boundaries.

Binay Panda is at Ganit Labs, Bengaluru

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Defining moment

The words of 16-year-old climate activist, Greta Thunberg, at the UN climate summit in New York, that her dreams and childhood had been stolen by the empty words of leaders has highlighted in a stunning and candid manner the agony of the next generation as far as the climate crisis is concerned. If activist and Nobel winner Malala Yousafzai has risen to become the face of children’s education, Greta is sure to be the champion soon for climate change

action and a clean environment. Wise counsel must prevail now and global leaders should walk their talk first (“World” page, “Trump slammed for mocking Greta’s speech”, September 25).

Dr. D.V.G. SANKARARAO,
Nellimarla, Andhra Pradesh

Trump remark

The bonhomie between the leaders of the largest and oldest democracies is welcome. However for the U.S. President, Donald Trump to call the Indian Prime Minister as the

‘Father of India’ is in bad taste and akin to undermining the true father of the nation. India has only one “father of the nation” and no politician is deserving to be termed this. This is because the core policies of Gandhiji – an observance of simplicity, truth and nonviolence – have long been forgotten by today’s politicians.

KSHIRASAGARA BALAJI RAO,
Hyderabad

‘Intrusion’ in judiciary

One doesn’t know how far the Chief Justice of India

was right in reprimanding lawyers for questioning the recent transfer of judges; to say that they are intrusions does not augur well for the institution. Questioning cannot be called judicial interference. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer once said that we should have enough and more criticism of the judiciary as that alone would speak about the awareness of the people. To silence criticism is not democracy or a part of the rule of law. If lawyers who are an integral part of the judicial system do not

question it, then who else will do it? Not to do so would be dereliction on their part. In recent times, there have been cases of two judges resigning to protest unjust transfers; in one instance it was a case of executive interference which is the real intrusion. It should not be forgotten that some Supreme Court Judges themselves questioned decisions by the Supreme Court Collegium. There has to be a nationwide debate as preservation of the Constitution and the rule of

law is the need of the hour.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
D. NAGASAILA,
K.K. RAM SIDDHARTHA,
Chennai

Balakot camp

Is it a case of indiscretion on the part of the Indian Army chief, Gen. Rawat? With credible information of this kind, the best thing would have been is to be quiet. The group may have shifted by now.

DEVRAJ SAMBASIVAN,
Alleppey, Kerala

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.hindu.co.in/opinion/letters/

The meaning of oneness in ‘one nation’

It is the oneness independent of the language we speak or the religion we practise



SUNDAR SARUKKAI

Philosophy as a discipline or practice is not popular these days. However, today we are faced with many challenges in the political arena that need philosophical reflection. Unintentionally, the government's actions and utterances create the possibility of a new climate for public philosophy, which in turn is important for a functioning democratic society.

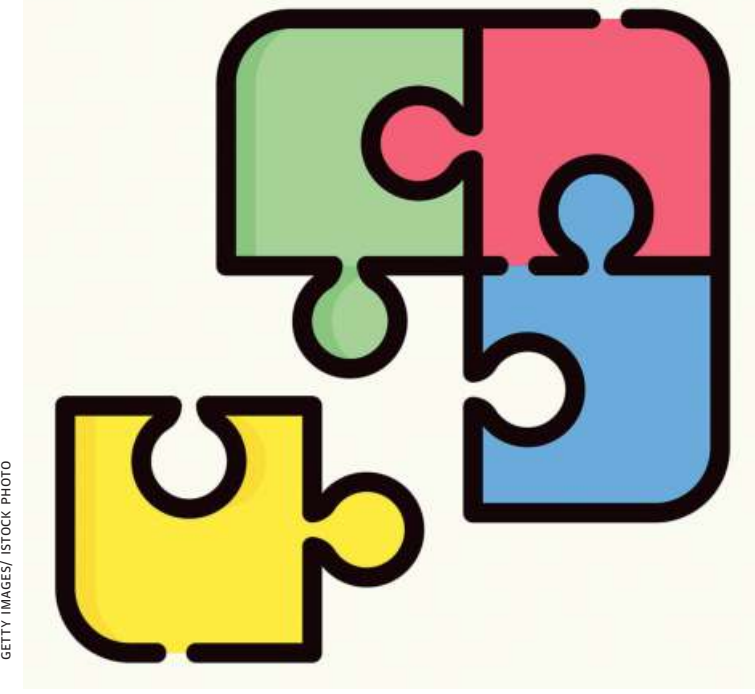
The claim by the Home Minister about ‘one language, one nation’ is an instance of this. While much has been said about the idea of a nation, here I want to point out how even the word ‘one’ in this phrase has many complex meanings embedded in it.

The notion of one

At the surface it seems as if this idea is about imposing a particular language. But the idea of ‘one’ that is invoked here is not only philosophically rich but also culturally common. It is impossible not to come across the notion of ‘one’, whether in philosophy, art, science or everyday cultural practices. And now, increasingly in politics. The search for one underlying truth, one underlying principle, one unified theory or one language has been privileged through the ages in all cultures.

But what is this idea of ‘one’? Although even children know about this number, there is nothing simple about it. There are many complex ideas hidden within this number. The most foundational principle of mathematics lies in the simple fact that 1 should always be equal to 1. Whatever you do to numbers or even equations, at the end the rule that cannot be violated is that 1 = 1.

The mathematical one has two other important properties. All integers can be produced by adding one. So if we begin with 1, we can then create 1+1 = 2, then create 2+1 = 3, and so on until infinity. Infinity itself is imaginable by us only because it is impossible to imagine the largest finite number. This is so because given any number which is the largest, we can always add 1 to it.



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There is another way by which infinity is created from 1 and this is by dividing 1. Starting with 1, we can create fractions out of it such as one-half, one-third, and so on. There are infinite divisions that we can make. We can thus say that one contains the infinity already within it and that it is defined as much by its divisibility as by its countability.

The one and the many

In philosophy, these questions are part of a fundamental problem called the problem of the ‘one and the many’. It is the puzzle of how is it that many different things can be ‘seen’ as one and at the same time how the ‘one’ can be seen as being made up of ‘many’. For example, what is in our cognition and language – in the way we experience and understand the world – that makes us perceive the many things in a room as being part of ‘one’ room?

This is not merely a question about how we perceive the world. The moment we use terms like unity, unified, together, collection, group, set, identity etc., we are actually talking about the idea of ‘one’. We do this in our conceptual thinking too. Concepts, one could argue, are really nothing more than creating oneness out of many. For example, the moment we use the concept ‘chair’, we are putting all the different, indivi-

dual chairs into ‘one’ family called ‘chair’.

Many great thinkers have repeatedly invoked the idea of one. Narayana Guru imagined a casteless society or, equivalently, a society of only one ‘caste’, what he called the *manusha jati*. There have been countless thinkers who have called for ‘one humanity’ as the ideal that we should follow. In the Advaitic philosophy of Shankara, the true reality is a oneness, and difference is only an illusion. Religious traditions focus on liberation, which is nothing but achieving oneness with god, as the central goal of human life.

Quality and quantity

So when the government invokes the idea of ‘one nation, one language’, what could be the meaning of ‘one’? It is surely not the meaning associated with the mathematical number. First of all, if it is the number one, then ‘one nation’ does not make sense since the nation (as it is singular) is always only one. If we say ‘one apple’, the meaning of one here is that it counts the number of apples leading to terms such as ‘one apple’, ‘two apples’, and so on. When the government says ‘one nation’, it is not using one in this countable sense. That is, the meaning of the word one in ‘one nation’ is not a measure of quantity.

So what else could it be then? The only possible meaning is if ‘one’ is understood not as a quantity but only as a quality. It is the quality of oneness that is the meaning of one in ‘one nation’. And herein lies the problem: quantity does not matter to the qualitative meaning of one. So even if 100% of the people in the country speak Hindi, it would still not be enough to create the quality of being one nation. (In fact, having a common language to define oneness is not a good idea since it is the common language which makes conflict easier!) At the same time, even if none of the people in a nation share the same language, it is still possible to have the quality of oneness.

Quality cannot be reduced to or totally converted to quantity. Social science methodology is based on this distinction between quantity and quality. So the problem in the government’s view is really this: when they use the term ‘one nation’ they are thinking of one in terms of quantity (such as majority). But the meaning of one in ‘one nation’ cannot be based on quantity and has to be only a quality. When any of us relates the oneness of nation to sheer numbers of majority, such as majority in language or in religion, then we are not really talking about the quality of oneness. Majority does not create oneness, it only creates bigger numbers. The importance of the quality of oneness lies in its strength to remain a simple ‘one’ and not get inflated by bigger and emptier numbers. Oneness should not be confused with sameness.

The oneness in ‘one nation’ is the kind of oneness talked about by Narayana Guru, Shankara, the saints in the Bhakti movement and the Sufi poets. It is the oneness between the humans and the world, and oneness between each one of us independent of the language we speak or the religion we practise. Those who talk about ‘one nation’ must realise that the true meaning of oneness lies in its quality of unity and togetherness. It does not arise through measurable and majoritarian views but only as a quality that comes through recognising the common humanity in all of us, independent of our gender, caste, class and religion.

Sundar Sarukkai is a philosopher based in Bengaluru

Live and let live-in

The order of the Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission on live-in relationships is problematic



SHRADDHA CHAUDHARY

While referring to women in live-in relationships, a Bench of the State Human Rights Commission of Rajasthan said on September 5 that the “concubine” life of a woman cannot be termed a dignified life. In the absence of any specific reference in the order to the complaints that triggered these provocative comments, it is difficult to say what the honourable justices sought to achieve by making them. The kindest interpretation would be that they were overcome by benevolent patriarchy, the kind which prompts universities to have more conservative curfews for female students. However, this seemingly innocuous need to ‘protect’ women is a symptom of a more pernicious disease: the need to ensure that women don’t challenge the patriarchal structures and institutions meant to keep them in their place.

The rights of parties who cohabit

In demanding a law that would provide avenues to formally recognise live-in relationships, the Bench touched upon an important legal issue. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, extends remedies in the legislation to ‘relationships in the nature of marriage’, and courts have repeatedly held that long, continuous cohabitation raises a presumption in favour of marriage. Notwithstanding this, there is a legal vacuum as regards the rights of parties who cohabit. The Supreme Court has passed several landmark judgments on intimate relationships. In *Shafin Jahan v. Asokan* (2018), it held that the right to choose one’s life partner is an important facet of the right to life, and social approval of intimate personal decisions should not be the basis for recognising them. In *Navtej Johar v. Union of India* (2018), it read down Section 377 of the IPC which criminalised consensual homosexual relationships. In light of this, it is important to note that being in a live-in relationship is a valid choice which deserves the recognition and protection of law. That said, there may also be those who cohabit informally because they cannot formalise their relationships, such as inter-caste/religion opposite-sex couples who are barred from marrying by social norms, or same-sex couples, who are barred from marrying by law. Informal cohabitation, like marriage, creates vulnerabilities due to divisions of labour that leave

one party, usually the woman and her child, in greater need of financial support when the relationship ends. The law provides ways to address these vulnerabilities in marriages through the provision of rights to maintenance or inheritance, but the needs of informal cohabitants are left up to the discretion of judges, without any legal framework to guide them. However, it is not for these reasons that the SHRC has demanded the law. The real apprehension of the Bench is the alleged proliferation of live-in relationships, a social institution through which sexual freedom can be exercised outside marriage.

Problematic proclamations

The SHRC’s order is problematic on many levels. One, Article 19 of the Constitution, which protects the right to freedom of speech and expression, includes the freedom to express one’s identity, sexual preferences, and love. The right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 includes the right to privacy. The right to choose how to organise one’s personal intimacies is an important facet of the right to privacy and, therefore, outside the purview of the state. Demanding that the government seek to prohibit live-in relationships is therefore brazen contempt of the decisions of the apex court.

Two, the language of the SHRC promotes sexist and heteronormative stereotypes, and ignores social reality. At one level, in stating that women in live-in relationships are ‘kept’ as concubines, it ignores the possibility that such relationships could be a viable alternative in cases where marriage is legally or socially prohibited. It also assumes that marriage is, or ought to be, the only relationship through which women sexually associate with men. At another level, by equating women who cohabit with concubines, it entrenches the patriarchal Madonna-whore dichotomy: women can either be good women who abide by the societal boundaries set for them or bad women who dare transgress these boundaries. The fact that this language was used by a body tasked with protecting and upholding human rights makes the proclamations doubly egregious.

Finally, the language in the order will likely create a chilling effect, preventing vulnerable citizens, in need of legal protection, from seeking redress.

The SHRC also demanded that governments run awareness campaigns against live-in relationships. It is worth considering whether that time and money might be better spent in campaigns to sensitise the functionaries of the justice system instead.

Shraddha Chaudhary is Senior Research Associate, Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat

Glitches after the glitz

After the Modi-Trump bonhomie in Houston, cracks are appearing in the India-U.S. relationship

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

The personal chemistry between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump is partly based on the convergence of political world views regarding immigration, “radical Islamic terror”, and trade. It is also partly based on shared values of the global right, which encompasses the rejection of a liberal-progressive ethos which includes the notion that a free press is an essential element of a democracy.

Against that backdrop, there could have been little doubt that the ‘Howdy, Modi’ event in Houston, Texas, would be a resounding public relations victory for Mr. Modi. Not only did he get the commander-in-chief of the world’s most powerful nation to play second fiddle in his formulaic diaspora-connect event, but Mr. Modi also managed their back-channel parleys so adroitly that potential sources of structural friction, including deep-festering concerns over tariffs, possibly divergent views on the ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and entrenched positions on how to deal with Pakistan received barely a mention in official remarks.

But then public relations exercises are simply that – window dressing. The sponsors of such events hope the euphoria will stick for long enough that some people who aren’t already drinking the Hindutva Kool-Aid buy into the paradigm and join the multitudes across the world keeping the saffron superstructure afloat.

Trade differences

However, the cracks are already showing. The much-vaunted big-bang announcement on trade that was hired at prior to ‘Howdy, Modi’ did not materialise. Talks may still be in progress over the more troublesome parts of a potential U.S.-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA), including tariffs on medical devices, electronic, telecommunications and dairy products; the expiration of India’s preferential trade status under the Generalized System of Preferences; and perhaps Mr. Trump’s bugbear – the export of Harley Davidson motorcycles to India. Yet the more troubling aspect of this bilateral conversation is the direction that it is taking –

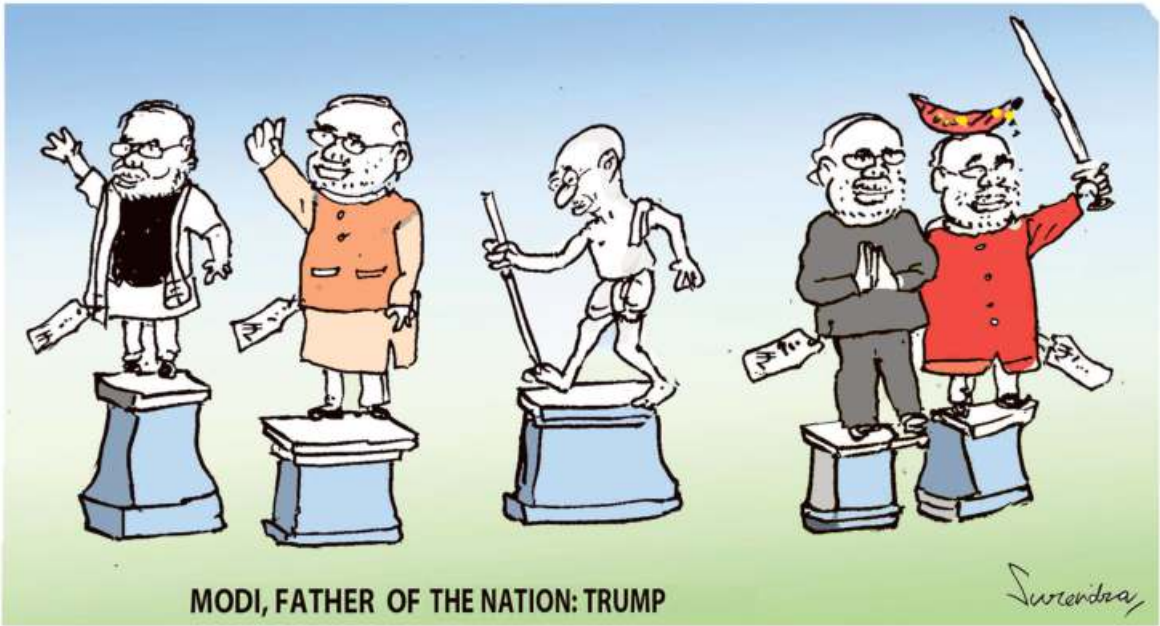
implicitly pushing “mini trade deals” over the broader commitments made to the WTO. This is nothing new for Mr. Trump, who is also pushing a similar bilateral-based trade agreement with Japan. But has there been a broader discussion in India about the costs and benefits of undermining the multilateral system in favour of a limited trade agreement, even with a strategically important ally? The fact is that a U.S.-India FTA might well run contrary to the WTO requirement that its members only accede to trade deals that cover “substantially all trade” – thereby avoiding a situation where countries partner up and unfairly discriminate against a third country or trading bloc. In the past New Delhi has certainly leaned heavily on the dispute resolution mechanisms afforded to it under the WTO’s arbitration facilities (ironically including against Washington on multiple occasions), so how could we not ask, a priori, if we are ready to throw that away before rushing into the Trumpian embrace?

Other cracks

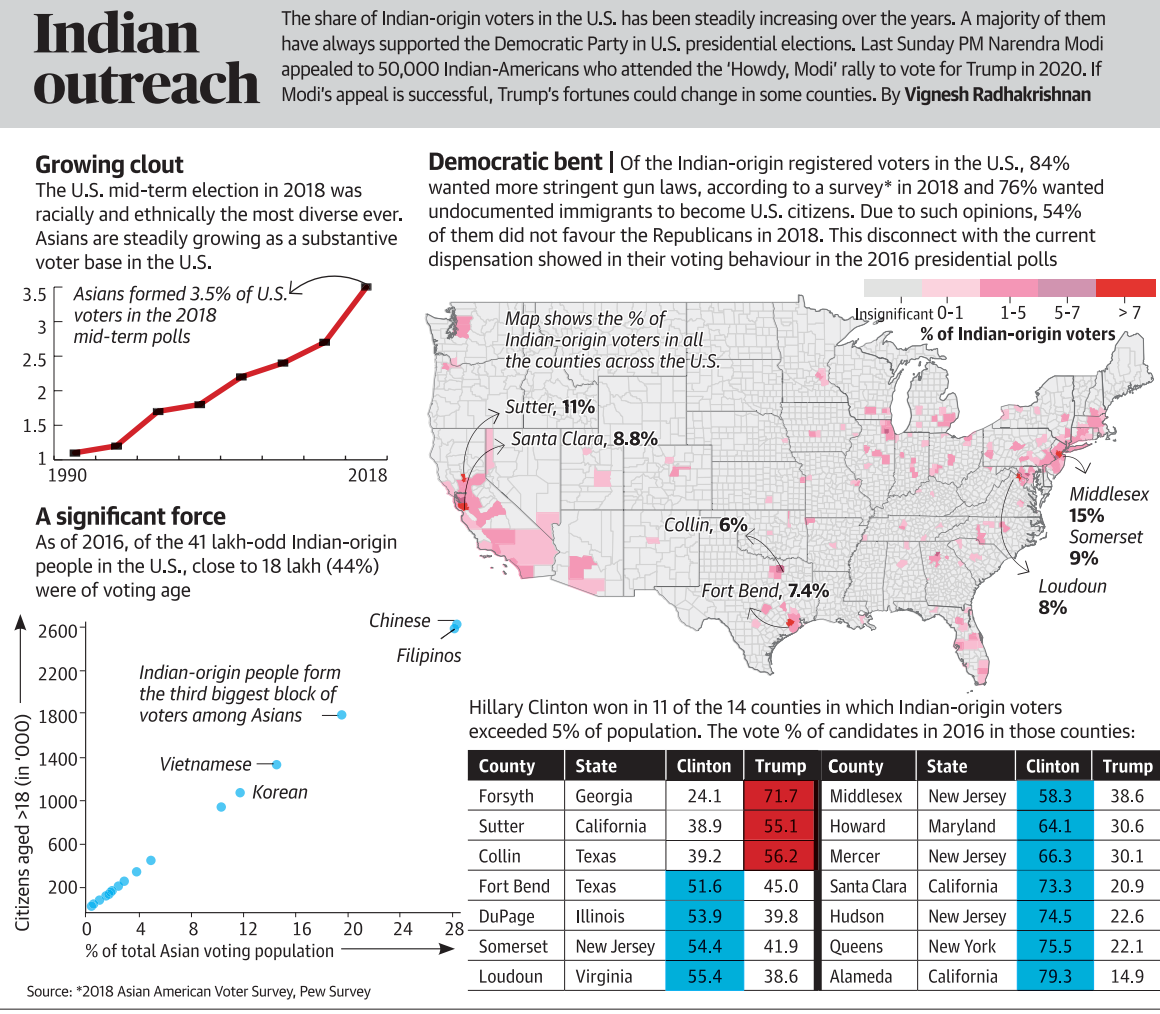
Visible post-‘Howdy, Modi’ cracks are appearing in spheres other than trade as well. Mr. Trump characterising of Mr. Modi’s remarks on Kashmir or Pakistan as “a very aggressive statement” belies the ostensible warmth that was on display at the NRG stadium between the two leaders. Similarly, Mr. Modi’s government and governance in Jammu and Kashmir has spooked numerous U.S. Democrats, including Senator Bernie Sanders, Representative Ilhan Omar and at least five members of the U.S. Congress who have explicitly voiced concern over the prevailing conditions in that region. And even though most of the mainstream media did not cover them, ordinary Americans and activists took to the streets in Houston to protest human rights abuses in India under the current dispensation and #AdiosModi did the rounds on social media.

While Mr. Modi may bask for a while in the event’s afterglow, it will not be long before he is back to tussling with the economic and social challenges that await him at home.

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DATA POINT



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 26, 1969

17 killed as mobs attack train

Seventeen passengers were killed when violent mobs attacked two trains - the Ahmedabad-bound Janata Express from Delhi and the Ahmedabad-Karanja local - this evening [September 25]. The Express was attacked near Amblihayana station and the local at a point between Kalol and Dhangarwa stations on the meter-gauge section of the Western Railway. According to the Railway authorities here [Ahmedabad] in the attack on the express train thirteen persons including three women were killed and several others injured. Four others were killed when the Ahmedabad-Karanja local was attacked, the authorities said. The mob of about 200 was said to have stopped the express before attacking it. On board were a few armed guards who were helpless before the overwhelming numbers of the mob. The train left for Ahmedabad after being detained for over 40 minutes, the reports said. According to reports received by the Western Railway area Superintendent, Mr. R.D. Mishra, the mobs pulled out several passengers from both the trains and beat them.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 26, 1919.

Future of Mesopotamia.

London, September 23. — Opening of a series of articles in the “Times” on Mesopotamia, Sir G.C. Buchanan emphasises that, in the present economic crises there is no money to spend on visionary and philanthropic enterprises, that cannot possibly show an adequate return for a generation. We have already spent far too much money on Mesopotamia. He declares that a great deal of the abuse of the Government of India in connection with the “Mesopotamian scandal” is unmerited. The Government of India was very badly served in Mesopotamia and India and kept ignorant of events. But when the Mesopotamian report was published, very great changes occurred and the situation is well in hand. The wastage under the War Office regime was shocking. There seemed to be absence of financial control. All departments were extravagant, chiefly the Inland Water Transport, with the Directorate for the Development of Local Resources a good second. The strictest economy is now required. There must be an end to ordering towns to be built regardless of expense, building concrete roads with material from India and carrying out other large public works, without estimates properly drawn up by competent men.

FROM PAGE ONE

Modi pitches for India's NSG entry

Mr. Modi said the administration in India today respected the business world and wealth creators - a message he had delivered on Independence Day, and one repeated by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman - reactions to perceptions that policies (around taxation and Corporate Social Responsibility for instance) had made investing in India difficult.

He mentioned intellec-

tual property at least twice during the session. IP has been another concern for U.S. businesses as India has continued to be placed on a U.S. government 'Priority Watch List' for its IPR practices.

Mr. Modi also said purchasing power in India was increasing, making it a prime market for those who wanted to invest where there were opportunities to scale up their businesses.

U.P. law student held in extortion case

Naveer Arora, the SIT chief, said co-accused Sanjay 'confessed' that he sent the extortion messages to Mr. Chinmayanand on the directions of the law student. Ms. Bharti said the student identified the voices in a video clip showing the four planning the extortion against Mr. Chinmayanand and 'confessed' to the crime. The officer said the student also identified the

car. "She also identified her own voice in the video," Ms. Bharti told journalists in Shahjahanpur.

The student was arrested from her house in Shahjahanpur at 9.30 a.m., police said.

The student's father said he was forced "to receive" a memo for the arrest only at the police station and accused the police of not following procedure.

Higher Education Bill in winter session

The earlier version of the HECI Bill, introduced in June 2018, had envisaged these responsibilities being handed over to an advisory board under the HRD Minister.

"We received more than 50,000 pieces of feedback when the draft Bill was made public last year. We have taken into account the sense of the people, and have removed the proposal for an advisory board to the Minister disbursing grants," a senior official told *The Hindu*.

The Ministry's five-year strategy plan, released in

June, had recommended that fund disbursement be done by a special purpose vehicle. "It could be done by an SPV. It could be done by an independent body under the HECI itself. It will certainly be done by an autonomous body," added the official.

Other changes include an increase in the number of State representatives in the HECI, to counter fears of States losing their autonomy. The new version also removes the requirement that existing institutions must take permission from HECI for their current courses.

It's raining discounts for vehicle buyers

Tata Motors is offering benefits of ₹85,000 on Nexon, ₹1,50,000 on Hexa, ₹70,000 on Tiago, ₹1,15,000 on Tigor and ₹50,000 on the recently launched Harrier.

Maruti Suzuki has offered benefits starting from ₹65,000 on the Alto to ₹1.01 lakh on the Brezza. Analysts said there was no other option but to offer deep discounts to exhaust the inventory before the BSVI norms kick in with effect from April 1, 2020. They said the discounts were required to prop up sales. "Our offerings this year are bigger and

better than the previous year and by far the best in the industry," said S.N. Barman, vice-president, sales, marketing & customer support, passenger vehicles business unit, Tata Motors. "We received a tremendous response during Onam and Ganesh Chaturthi. We are hopeful that this year's festive offers will provide a huge boost to the buyer morale," he added.

Two wheeler firms have also stepped into the discounting race, with Vespa and Aprilia offering benefits worth around ₹10,000.

Bihar policeman files complaint against Minister

Video of Ashwini Choubey 'chiding' him goes viral

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A policeman in Bihar's Buxar district has filed a complaint against Union Minister Ashwini Choubey for allegedly threatening him in full public view.

A video of the Minister, who is a BJP MP from Buxar, purportedly threatening the police officer has gone viral on social media. No FIR has been lodged against the Minister in this connection, said Buxar Deputy Superintendent of Police K.K. Singh.

The incident happened on Monday when the Union Minister of State for Health visited his constituency and held a *janata* durbar. A BJP worker, Laxman Dubey, complained to him that a local police officer, Rajiv Ranjan, who was also present there, had sent him a "goonda notice".

A visibly angry Minister called Mr. Ranjan and shouted at him, "Does this man look like a goonda to you? Have you seen a goonda? You better mend your ways or you will be stripped of your uniform."

Mr. Choubey defended himself saying he only wanted to tell the police officer that innocent people should not be branded as criminals. "There was some confusion... those being declared goondas and criminals are innocent farmers and BJP workers. I told the police officer that an FIR should be registered on time and innocent people should not be branded as goondas," he said.

During the 2019 Lok Sabha election campaign in Buxar, the Minister had publicly reprimanded a government official for stopping his cavalcade from entering the venue of a public meeting. Mr. Choubey is a second time MP from the constituency.

We're prepared, says Rajnath on threat from Balakot camp revival

Defence Minister commissions Coast Guards' offshore patrol vessel *ICGS Varaha*

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

In the wake of the reactivation of the terror camp in Pakistan's Balakot and a recent communication from Punjab Chief Minister to Union Home Minister Amit Shah about drones being used by Pakistan to deliver weapons into India, the Indian security forces were fully prepared, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told reporters in Chennai on Wednesday.

Mr. Singh commissioned *ICGS Varaha*, offshore patrol vessel of the Coast Guard. Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar, Director General of the Coast Guard Krishnaswamy Natarajan were present.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Singh called upon all those involved in coastal security to proactively interact and engage towards achiev-



Moment of pride: The ICGS Varaha was commissioned in Chennai on Wednesday. ■ BIJOY GHOSH

ing the common goal of national security.

"The Indian Coast Guard has entered into a memorandum of understanding with seven maritime nations for capacity-building, training,

collective and cooperative response to deal with maritime threats," he said.

Mr. Singh lauded the Coast Guard's service to the nation, saying: "The efforts during Kerala floods in 2018

and the recent floods in Maharashtra, Karnataka and simultaneously tackling maritime contingencies is a testimony to the diversity of roles being played by Coast Guard on land and over sea."

J&K youth being sent to jails outside State

Hundreds wait outside police station in Shopian to get information on detained relatives

VIJAITA SINGH
SHOPIAN

Gulzar Ahmad Wagey has not seen his 11-year-old son for 22 days. Mr. Wagey, a shopkeeper at Keegam village in Shopian, said his son was picked up by security forces in the last week of August from their home. He said he had been coming to the police station every day to know the son's whereabouts.

"I do not know why he was arrested. Saheb [Superintendent of Police] assured us that he will let me meet him," said Mr. Wagey as he waited outside the Shopian headquarters. He later said the police had agreed to release his son.

Hundreds waited outside the police station in Shopian to get information about their relatives, friends and neighbours when *The Hindu* visited the place last week. Most were detained to prevent any kind of violence in the aftermath of August 5, when J&K was stripped of its



In limbo: People lining up outside the Shopian police HQ to know the whereabouts of their loved ones. ■ VIJAITA SINGH

special status and bifurcated into two Union Territories.

800 in detention

Director-General of Police, J&K, Dilbag Singh said in an interview to *The Hindu* that from August 5, nearly 3,000 cases were reported of young men being picked up and released subsequently in the Kashmir Valley. Nearly 800 remain in detention and some 150 are lodged in jails outside J&K.

Bilal Ahmad, resident of Shopian, said that his neigh-

bour Abdul Rauf, 50, a government employee, had been missing for the past 40 days. "He was picked up from Zainapora. We come here every day to get information about him but have not succeeded so far. They are sending young men to jails outside the State. In the absence of mobile phones, there is no way we can get information," Mr. Ahmad said.

Shopian is one of the worst militancy-affected districts in South Kashmir. There are around 225 villag-

Rise in *habeas corpus* cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The J&K High Court is witnessing a growing number *habeas corpus* cases. However, the "unprecedented situation" in the Valley is holding back the Court from issuing any orders for relief in cases of detentions.

es in the district spread over 60,000 hectares, of which half is covered by apple orchards. It is the largest producer of apples in J&K.

According to the police, last year, 42 men from Shopian joined various terrorist groups, while this year, only 17 took to militancy. A police officer said that after August 5, only one man joined the terror group.

In the past one year, as many as 20,000 people have signed community bonds to secure the release of 800

There is normalcy in Kashmir, says Army chief

'Shops are open, people moving around'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

There is normalcy in Kashmir and people are moving around on their work, the Chief of the Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat, said here on Wednesday.

"Normal life in Jammu and Kashmir has not been affected. People are doing their necessary work, a clear sign that work has not been stopped and people are freely moving around. Those who feel that life has been affected are the ones whose survival depends on terrorism," he told presspersons after presenting the President's colours to the 29th and 30th battalions of the Punjab Regiment in Ramgarh.

Army releases videos

Gen. Rawat said brick kilns were functioning normally while trucks were transporting sand. Shops were open. This showed that life was normal in the Valley. The Ar-



Those who feel that life has been affected are the ones whose survival depends on terrorism

GEN. BIPIN RAWAT
Army chief

my had released videos a couple of days ago taken from drones showing apples being harvested and trucks moving with them. Communications have been partly restored in Kashmir, which has seen total blackout since August 5. Landline phones have been restored recently while mobile and Internet remain shut.

(With inputs from PTI)

IN BRIEF



Tribunal declares JKLF an unlawful association

NEW DELHI

An Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act Tribunal has declared the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front an "unlawful association." The outfit, headed by separatist Yasin Malik, was banned by the Home Ministry on March 22. The Tribunal concludes there was "sufficient cause" to declare 'JKLF-Y' as an unlawful association.

Won't engage Labour Party on Kashmir: India

NEW DELHI

Responding to the comments on the Kashmir situation at the Labour Party Conference of the U.K. on September 25, India said that it will not engage the party on explaining the Kashmir situation. "There is no question of engaging with the Labour Party or its representatives on this issue," said the MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar.

Police to brainstorm on rogue drones

Arms seized in Punjab suspected to have been air-dropped from Pakistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

More than 100 police officers from across the country would brainstorm on anti-drone technology and explore the best comprehensive and compatible solution to control rogue drones in a seminar organised by the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) on Thursday and Friday.

An official said the objective of the seminar was to ensure that police officers from all States, Union Territories and Central Armed Police



Arms and satellite phones recovered by the Punjab police on Sunday. ■ PTI

Forces (CAPF) were updated on the technology.

Last week, the Punjab police seized a huge cache of arms, including five AK-47 rifles, pistols, hand grenades and satellite phones suspected to have been delivered from across the border from Pakistan over drones.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said the incident was a new and serious dimension to Pakistan's sinister designs in the aftermath of the revocation of the special status of J&K under Article 370.

The seminar would be attended by representatives of

private firms also.

Wing Commander Prakash will give a presentation on "threat perspective from rogue drones".

Panel constituted

Last month, Home Minister Amit Shah had constituted a committee under the BPRD to study and analyse the threat from drones.

The "Policy Framework for Anti-Drone Technology" would be addressed by officials from the DGCA, the Bureau of Civil Aviation and the Airports Authority of India.

'Love jihad' on the rise, says NCM vice-chief

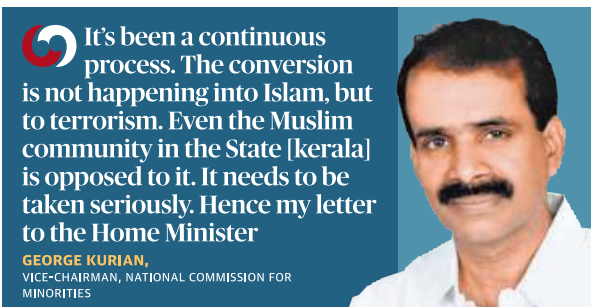
In a letter to Amit Shah, he says it's a growing threat to the Christian community

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

George Kurian, Vice-Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), has raised the issue of alleged "love jihad" and its supposed connection to terror activities, saying it is a growing threat specifically to the Christian community.

In a letter to Home Minister Amit Shah early this week, he demanded an investigation by the National Investigation Agency and an effective law to "curb such fraudulent activities of radicalised elements".

In the letter, a copy of which is with *The Hindu*, Mr. Kurian says, "The spate of organised religious conversions and using the victims



for terror activities by trapping them through 'love jihad' has shown the Christian community is a soft target for Islamic radicals."

He specifically mentioned a case of alleged rape, blackmail and coercive conversion attempts in Kozhikode, Kerala, and the complaint filed with the Commission

by a couple in Delhi that their daughter was abducted to a West Asian country, stating their fear that she might be ill-treated and forced into terrorist activities or treated as a "slave".

There are reports that the External Affairs Ministry is in touch with the parents and may investigate the matter

further since it involves another country.

Mr. Kurian quoted some reports by the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council's Commission for Social Harmony and Vigilance, which put the number of women victims of "love jihad" between 2005 and 2012 at 4,000. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kurian said the issue was "already a social and political issue in Kerala and had been since 2006".

"It's been a continuous process. The conversion is not happening into Islam, but to terrorism. Even the Muslim community in the State is opposed to it. It needs to be taken seriously. Hence my letter to the Home Minister," he said.

Can't contest ASI report now, Muslim parties told

Should have objected in High Court: SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Muslim parties in the Ayodhya dispute argued on Wednesday that the Archaeological Study of India (ASI) report on the excavations at the Babri Masjid site in 2003 is filled with "palpable and inherent" infirmities and inconsistencies.

But the Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said it was too late in the day to object to the ASI report. The Bench wondered why the Muslims had chosen to question the report now in the Supreme Court and not earlier in the Allahabad High Court which had commissioned the excavations. It said the Muslims cannot object to what they did not object before the Allahabad High Court.


The High Court had ordered the ASI excavation of the disputed area in a judicial direction. The archaeol-

ogists reported traces of a large structure which pre-existed the Babri Masjid. The Hindus claim that the findings gives credence to their claim that there was a Ram Mandir in that place.

Senior advocate Mee-nakshi Arora said the ASI report was "weak evidence" and can be only considered an opinion at best. The lawyer argued that the summary of the ASI report was neither signed nor attributed to any of the archaeologists who were members of the project.

The judges on the Bench, one after the other, expressed scepticism about her argument.

"You are asking us to sit in judgment of something that happened in the trial stage? You should have confronted the Commissioner [ASI] and put all these questions.... You cannot come in appeal and say the report is infirm," said Chief Justice Gogoi.



APPEAL

Name of Patient: **Soulmya Mondal, 3 years.** Hospital Name: Christian Medical College. Diagnosis: Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. His treatment is for 3 years and total cost of treatment is **Rs. 7 Lakhs.**

We request kind hearted Philanthropists to save him. Kindly send donation by Cheque / D.D. / M.O favouring Save Poor Lives A/c Soulmya Mondal S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, IFSC CODE: SBIN001855, which is exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.

Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (ADMIN DIVISION) Flat No. A4, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram, Chennai-600028. Ph: 044-42044165. Mobile: 9884607377, E-mail: savepoorlives@gmail.com

Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

DONATION GIVEN TO PATIENTS UPTO MARCH 2019 FOR Rs. 4,26,89,335/- AND SCHOLARSHIP 7,30,800/-.

Catch the sun
The Gandhi Solar Park at the UN headquarters in New York is an Indian effort to go beyond the talk on climate change and climate action. At a contribution of about \$1 million, India has gifted the solar panels that have been installed on the roof of the building, one panel each for 193 member states

System size of each panel: 71.41 KW
Projected annual system output: 86,244 kWh (equals to carbon dioxide emissions from 30,246 Kg of coal burned or carbon sequestered from 1,008 tree seedlings grown for 10 years)

Gandhiji’s principles act as a moral compass, says Modi

PM inaugurates Solar Park, Peace Garden at UN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with UN chief Antonio Guterres and other world leaders, inaugurated the Gandhi Solar Park and Gandhi Peace Garden at the headquarters of the global body, underlining that his principles act as a moral compass as the world grapples with challenges of climate change, terrorism and corruption. Mr. Modi was joined by South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in remotely inaugurating the 50-kW Gandhi Solar Park and the Gandhi Peace Garden at the UN Headquarters on Tuesday. The special commemorative event “Leadership matters: relevance of Gandhi in the contemporary world”

was hosted by Mr. Modi to mark Gandhiji’s 150th birth anniversary. A special UN Postage stamp on Gandhiji’s 150 birth anniversary was released. The Gandhi Solar Park is a first of its kind symbolic Indian effort at the U.N. that highlights India’s willingness to go beyond the talk on climate change and climate action. At a contribution of about \$1 million, India has gifted solar panels that have been installed on the roof of the U.N. Headquarters here, one panel each for every 193 U.N. member states. The ‘Gandhi Peace Garden’ is an innovative initiative under which the Consul-General of India in New York, Long Island-based NGO Shanti Fund and the State University of New York-Old Westbury have entered into an agreement to plant 150 trees. It is a crowd-sourced project, with people adopting trees in the memory of their

loved ones. The garden is in an open site within the 600-acre campus of the university. The solar panels are powered up to reach the maximum 50 kW of generation power. Energy generated in the park is equivalent to energy that would have been created through the use of 30,000 kg of coal. It also has a carbon sequestration of 1,000 seedlings which will grow into trees over 10 years. Mr. Modi said the values promoted by Gandhiji served as a moral compass for enlightened leadership. Addressing the event, Mr. Guterres said, “Gandhiji’s vision and philosophy are pillars of the work of the United Nations. Part of his genius lay in his ability to see the inter-connectedness and the unity between all things. His political achievements included leading the movement that ended colonial rule in India.”

Swachh Bharat helped meet UN goals: PM

Modi receives the Global Goalkeeper award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the mission

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, honoured with the “Global Goalkeeper” award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, has said the cleanliness campaign played a critical role in helping achieve UN goals and targets. “Getting the award in the year of Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary is personally significant for me. When 130 crore people take a pledge, any challenge can be overcome,” he said accepting the award here on Tuesday night.

Not just numbers
Mr. Modi said the success of Swachh Bharat was above and beyond any statistics.



Top honour: Narendra Modi receiving the award of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation from Bill Gates.

“The campaign has not only improved the lives of crores of Indians, but it has also played a significant role in achieving the goals set by the UN,” Mr. Modi said. He dedicated the award to those Indians who transformed the campaign into a “people’s movement” and

accorded topmost priority to cleanliness in their lives. “No such campaign was seen or heard about in any other country in the recent past. It might have been launched by our government, but people took control of it,” Mr. Modi said. 11 crore toilets
As a result, over 11 crore toilets were built in the country in the past five years, which was a record, he said. The Prime Minister said if the mission had benefited anyone the most, it was the poor and women. “Only that person who does not have a toilet understands its value, especially women,” he said, adding that not having a toilet was among their most tough problems. He said many young girls had to give up education due to lack of toilets in their schools. “Our daughters wanted to study but due to lack of toilets they were forced to leave their schools and sit at home.” Mr. Modi said it was the responsibility of his government to help the girls and women come out of this situation and it had performed the duty with utmost sincerity. He expressed satisfaction that the mission was helping save millions of lives. He met Bill Gates and Melinda Gates after the programme. “PM @narendramodi had a fruitful interaction with @BillGates and @melindagates,” the Prime Minister’s Office said in a tweet.

Two accounts of Modi-Trump meet

Readouts are hardly ever identical, says Indian official on the discrepancies

Emerging from the Modi-Trump bilateral meeting on Tuesday, the Indian and U.S. sides offered summaries of the meetings that were, in some respects, at variance with one another. At least two differences between the accounts - one on Afghanistan and the other on terror and Kashmir - were substantive. The Indian account of the meeting, conveyed by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, said that Afghanistan had not been discussed due to a lack of time. The U.S. administration,



Dual narrative: Donald Trump and Narendra Modi meet at the UN General Assembly.

however, said the two countries discussed Afghanistan. “...Both leaders expressed concerns about the situation in Afghanistan and shared ideas about how to work together to promote security and prosperity in the country,” a readout of the meeting from the White House said. At the post-bilateral External Affairs Ministry briefing, Mr. Gokhale said the session was split equally between a discussion on terrorism and trade, saying there was “a long discussion on terro-

ism” in which Mr. Modi had explained “in some detail” the challenges India had faced from terrorism, especially in Jammu & Kashmir, over the past 30 years. However, there was no mention of terrorism in the White House’s readout. “Additionally, the President encouraged Prime Minister Modi to improve relations with Pakistan and fulfill his promise to better the lives of the Kashmiri people,” the reference to Kashmir from the White House’s readout said. “Readouts are hardly ever identical,” an External Affairs Ministry official told The Hindu.

India offers aid to Pacific island nations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a \$150-million line of credit to the group of Pacific island nations for solar, renewable energy and climate-related projects. Mr. Modi, who attended the India-Pacific Islands Developing States Leaders’ Meeting, announced \$12 million for the member-states to implement high-impact development projects in an area of their choice. The meeting was held on Tuesday on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.

Complainant names Pawar in bank scam case

Surinder Mohan Arora, on whose public interest litigation petition the Bombay High Court last month directed the Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police to investigate the alleged

₹25,000 crore scam in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank, has named Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar. “Based on the police case, the Enforcement Directorate has initiated the money-laundering investigation and

added Mr. Pawar’s name, after the EOW recorded the witness statement of Mr. Arora,” said an agency official. On August 26, Mr. Arora recorded his latest statement. He alleged that loans were disbursed at the behest of

Govt. diverting attention from slump: CPI

The Communist Party of India on Wednesday accused the government of trying to divert people’s attention from the unfolding economic downturn. A statement issued at the end of the September 23-24 National Executive meeting, warned of a recession and called for the protection of the democratic rights of the people of Kashmir and of those affected by the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam. “The manufacturing sector has shown a mere 0.6% growth and if the negative growth in the unorganised sector is taken into account, the GDP growth would be hardly 1% as per experts,” the party said.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said, “People are being held at gunpoint in Kashmir while the government makes misleading promises about democracy and development in the region.”

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS-DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE BIDDING
TENDER NOTICE (T.N.) NO: C/1212/2019
On line item rate e-tenders in two envelope system are invited on behalf of the President of India by Dy. Chief Engineer(CED,PD & EP) with above address, Ph: 040-2718 4725, 2718 4631 from eligible contractors for the works of “Construction Of Guest House Cum Toilet (G+3) And Two Blocks Of Type-II B Residential Buildings (Stilt + 13 Floors) Including Civil, PH, Internal Electrical, HVAC & Fire Fighting Works For Nuclear Fuel Complex Township At Rawatbhatta, Rajasthan.”

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST
MARINE DEPARTMENT
TUTICORIN - 628 004.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Online Electronic Tenders are invited by V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin from experienced, reputed and financially sound contractors, as stipulated in the tender document for the following work:
Tender No. : M-NAVI/50T BP Tug Hire/F09
Name of work : Supply, Manning, Operation and Maintenance of 1 No. of 50T BP or more highly maneuverable Tractor, Reverse Tractor or ASD tug for VOC Port Trust on hire basis for a period of five years extendable by two years.
Estimate value of work : Rs.34,53,03,000/- plus GST
Earnest Money Deposit : Rs.59,53,030/- [Rs.25,00,000/- by NEFT/ RTGST and Rs.34,53,030/- by BG]
Date of downloading of tender document from VOCPT e- tendering web-site : 26.09.2019 to 18.10.2019
Pre - Bid Meeting : 15.00 hrs on 09.10.2019
Last date and Time for submission of Tenders online : Up to 15.00 hrs on 18.10.2019
Date and time of opening of (cover-1) Technical Bid Online : 15.30 Hrs on 18.10.2019
Validity of tender : 120 days from the last date fixed for receipt of tender.
For further details visit the port e-tender website www.tenderwizzard.com/VOCPT.
-sd/-25.09.2019 Deputy Conservator

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice
KILIFB- Shornur Municipality - Supplying and Laying Distribution System from OHSR s in Zone - I & Zone - II & Zone - III
EMD: Rs. 100000 - 200000
Tender fee: Rs - 8400 - 11200
Last Date for submitting Tender : 22-10-2019 03.00:pm
Phone: 04912544927 website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in KWA-JB-GL-e-299-2019-20 PH Circle Palakkad

जोधपुर विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड
कोरिडोर आइडेंटिफिकेशन नम्बर (सीन)-यू40109 अक्टूबर 2007एसजीसी16483
पंजीकृत कार्यालय : यू पॉवर हाउस, जोधपुर-342003
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (सी.एस.एस.)
फोन नं. : 0291-2742336 फैक्स नं. : 0291-2745259
ईमेल : secssjdvnrl@gmail.com, Web site : http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvnrl
अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना
जोधपुर विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. के अधीन निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु उनकी आधार पर योग्य निविदाकर्ताओं से दो भागों में मोहम्मद अल्लुवाहिक ई-निविदाएं (एनबीबी-एनबीबी) एवं सूचना निविदाएं (यूएनबी) दीए जा रही हैं।
अनुमति प्राप्त कार्यों के लिए निविदा सूचना, घोषणा पत्र निविदा प्रस्ताव करने, खोलने की तिथि सूचना का वितरण वेबसाइट http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvnrl, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। निविदाकर्ताओं को उनके स्वयं के हित में संस्कार दी जाती है कि वे निविदा सूचना (यूएनबी) का उपयोग कर सकते हैं।
सूचना: अधीक्षक ने इन निविदाओं से सम्बंधित किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन / तिथि बढ़ाने की जानकारी आदि केवल वेबसाइट http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvnrl, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://sppp.rajasthan.gov. पर उपलब्ध करवा दी है।
राज. संस्कार / सी / 2778 / 2019-2020
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (सी.एस.एस.)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR : AMRUT, ASSAM
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6
NO. TP/AMRUT/9/2017/166 E-mail : amrutassam2016@gmail.com
SHORT e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE / INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) No. AMRUT / 013 of 2019-20
The undersigned invites bid online through e-Procurement system website i.e. www.assamenders.gov.in from eligible bidders in 2 (two) bid system for the following package of work under AMRUT.
Sl. No Name of Work Approx. value of works Bid Security Cost of Bid document and Bid processing fee Period of completion
1 "Designing, supply,construction, installation, testing, commissioning of Intake System, Raw & Clear Water Transmission Main, Raw Water Treatment Plant (WTP), Service Reservoirs, Distribution System, House Connections and SCADA for Sitchar Town (24X7) Water Supply Project, all complete, including 5 years Operation and Maintenance" on EPC mode Rs. 163.29 Crores. @1% of value of work Rs. 30,00,000 24 months
All other relevant information and the detailed Bid Documents are available on website www.assamenders.gov.in and can be viewed from 26.09.2019 up to 15.00 hr. of 08.11.2019. The Bids are to be submitted through online and in no case manual bids shall be entertained.
Sd/- Mission Director AMRUT , Assam
Janasanyog/CF/1708/19

सेमी-कंडक्टर लेबोरेटरी / Semi- Conductor Laboratory
अंतरिक्ष विभाग, भारत सरकार / Department of Space, Government of India,
सेक्टर-72, सा.अ.सि.नगर(मोहाली) -160071, चंडीगढ़ के समीप(पंजाब) भारत
Sector -72, S.A.S. Nagar-160 071, Near Chandigarh (Punjab) India
फोन / Phone : +91-172-2236166/6168/6169/6173 फैक्स / Fax +91-172-2237410
ईमेल / Email: hps@scsl.gov.in वेबसाइट: www.scsl.gov.in
निविदा सूचना संख्या, एएससीएल/पीटी/157 / TENDER NOTICE No. SCL/PT/157 दिनांक / Dated: 20.09.2019
निदेशक, एएससीएल के लिए एवं उनकी ओर से सेमी-कंडक्टर लेबोरेटरी के प्रमुख क्रय एवं भंडार, निम्न के लिए ऑन लाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित करते हैं।
For and on behalf of The Director, Head-Purchase & Stores, Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) invites Online Tender for the following:
क्र.सं. Sr.No. निविदा संख्या Tender Number विवरण Description
1 एससीएल/पीएल4 / 2019ई0150901 SCL/PSA/2019E0150901 (एक भाग निविदा/ Single Part Tender) तापमान बल प्रणाली Temperature Forcing System (विस्तृत जानकारी निविदा दस्तावेज अनुसार / Details as per Tender Document)
नोट/Note: निविदा दस्तावेज को ई-निविदा पोर्टल https://eprocure.isro.gov.in एएससीएल की वेबसाइट (www.scsl.gov.in) /इसको की वेबसाइट (www.isro.gov.in) / सीपीपी पोर्टल (http://cpp.gov.in) से देखें / डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। / Tender Documents can be accessed/downloaded from e-tender portal https://eprocure.isro.gov.in SCL website (www.scsl.gov.in) /ISRO website (www.isro.gov.in) / CPP Portal (http://cpp.gov.in).
प्रमुख, क्रय एवं भंडार / Head, Purchase & Stores

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001
Phone No. 080-40931272 Website: www.kiadb.in email: cdoce1@kiadb.in or jdt@kiadb.in
SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER TO PROVIDE CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR OBTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE (EC)
(Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)
KIADB is inviting tenders under two cover systems for providing consultancy services for preparing EIA, SIS studies etc., to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) from State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and Consent for Establishment (CFE) from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) for the following KIADB Industrial Areas. The firms who are listed as Accredited Consultants in the accredited list of Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi. are eligible to participate in the tender.
Sl. No. Proposed name of the new industrial area Approx. Extent EMD (Rs. in lakhs)
Tender Notification No. IADB/ENGG/EIA/EC/ETND-EP-07/ 9066/2019-20 Dt:25.09.2019
1. Koturu-Beluru Industrial Area, Koturu-Beluru Village, Dharwad Taluk & District 594.92 Acres (240.75 Ha) 2.00
Tender Notification No. IADB/ENGG/EIA/EC/ETND-EP-08/ 9067/2019-20 Dt:25.09.2019
2. Gamanagatti and Itagatti Industrial Area, Gamanagatti and Itagatti Village, Hubli Taluk, Dharwad District 590.35 Acres (239.00 Ha) 2.00
Tender Notification No. IADB/ENGG/EIA/EC/ETND-EP-09/ 9068/2019-20 Dt:25.09.2019
3. Harohalli Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District. 352.31 Acres (142.63 Ha) 2.00
Applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Scheduled of dates are as follows:
• Last date to receive pre-bid Queries: 05.10.2019 Up to 5.00 p.m.
• Pre-bid meeting will be held on: 11.10.2019 at 11.30 a.m.
• Deadline for submission of Technical and financial bids is 22.10.2019 up to 4.00 p.m.
• Time and date of opening Technical bids is on 24.10.2019 after 11.30 a.m.
Sd/- Chief Development Officer & Chief Engineer-1

‘Trump urged Ukraine’s leader to probe Biden’

Transcript reveals details of the controversial July phone conversation

MAGGIE HABERMAN
MICHAEL D. SHEAR
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump urged the President of Ukraine to contact Attorney General William Barr about opening a potential corruption investigation connected to former Vice-President Joe Biden, according to the reconstruction of a July phone call at the centre of accusations that Mr. Trump pressured a foreign leader to find dirt on a political rival.

“I would like you to do us a favour,” Mr. Trump said in response to President Volodymyr Zelenskiy of Ukraine raising the prospect of acquiring military equipment from the United States. Noting that the United States had “done a lot for Ukraine,” Mr. Trump also asked for another inquiry: that the Ukrainians examine an unsubstantiated theory about stolen Democratic emails.

After a whistleblower raised concerns about Mr. Trump’s dealings with Ukraine, the Director of National Intelligence and the Inspector General for the intelligence community each referred the complaint for a possible criminal investigation into the President’s actions, according to a Justice Department official.

No violation of law
The department’s criminal division determined that the reconstructed transcript of the call did not show that Mr. Trump had violated campaign finance laws by soliciting from a foreign national a contribution, donation or thing of value.

Thunberg, three others, win ‘Alternative Nobel’

‘Inspired calls for urgent climate action’

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COPEHHAGEN

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, 16, was among four people named on Wednesday as the winners of a Right Livelihood Award, also known as the ‘Alternative Nobel’. Ms. Thunberg is being recognised “for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts,” the prize foundation said. It added that Ms. Thunberg “personifies the notion that everyone has the power to create change”.

The foundation also gave its 2019 award to Davi Kopenawa and the Hutukara Yanomami Association, representing Brazil’s indigenous

To impeach a President



THE TRIGGER

- A whistleblower alleged that in July, Trump pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate Joe Biden’s son

Hunter. Days prior to the call, Trump reportedly withheld \$400 million military aid to Kiev, giving rise to speculation that he was expecting a quid pro quo

HUNTER’S UKRAINE CONNECTION

- In 2014, following the fall of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich, President Barack Obama made Vice-President Biden his point person for the country. In the same year, Hunter took up a position at Ukraine’s largest private gas company, Burisma, for which he was reportedly paid \$50,000 a month. There was, however, no evidence of any wrongdoing

The actions taken to date by the President have seriously violated the Constitution... The President must be held accountable. No one is above the law

NANCY PELOSI



SUPPORT FOR IMPEACHMENT

- More than 150 of the 235 Democratic members in the 435-seat House have shown support for impeachment or the opening of an inquiry. No House Republican has come out in favour of impeachment
- There are at least six House committees investigating the President, probes that will now be subsumed under the impeachment proceedings likely to be conducted by the House judiciary committee

Chances of success

In past impeachments, support and opposition ran along party lines, which looks likely in Trump’s case as well; Democrats lack a majority in the Senate and, even assuming that all 47 Democratic Senators vote in favour of convicting the President, they need the support of at least 20 Republicans

THE PROCESS

Any member can introduce an impeachment resolution if he/she believes that the President has committed “treason, bribery, or other crimes and misdemeanors”

The motion is sent to the judiciary committee, or any other committee, which reviews evidence or carries out investigation

If the evidence is strong, the committee crafts articles of impeachment and sends them to the full House

The House needs to pass the articles by a simple majority vote; the President will then be deemed as “impeached” by the House

The articles then go to the Senate,

where a trial presided by the Chief Justice takes place, with representatives from the House acting as prosecutors and the President and his attorneys presenting his defence

A two-thirds majority is necessary to convict and remove the President

If the President is convicted, the Vice-President takes over the White House

THE PRECEDENTS

- No U.S. President has been ousted from office by impeachment. Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 to avoid certain removal

- Two Presidents beat the process: the House formally impeached Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998, but in both cases they were acquitted in the Senate



Israel PM gets chance to retain power

President nominates Netanyahu to stitch together coalition

REUTERS
JERUSALEM

Israel’s President tasked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday with assembling a new government after power-sharing talks with his rival, Benny Gantz, failed following an inconclusive election.

Mr. Netanyahu, head of the right-wing Likud party, and Israel’s longest-serving leader, still has no clear path to a fifth term after emerging from the September 17 ballot, the second this year, short of a parliamentary majority. “I have decided to give you, sir, the opportunity to assemble a government,” President Reuven Rivlin said to Mr. Netanyahu at a nomination ceremony. He will have 28 days to form



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu. ■ REUTERS

a coalition and can ask Mr. Rivlin for a two-week extension, if necessary. Mr. Netanyahu’s failure to clinch victory in a ballot in April led to last week’s election and left him politically weakened.

In the new countdown, Likud has the pledged support of 55 legislators in the 120-member Parliament, against

54 for Mr. Gantz’s centrist Blue and White Party. The two parties failed to reach a coalition deal on Tuesday. Former Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman has been keeping his far-right Yisrael Beiteinu party on the fence since the September 17 ballot.

“It became clear that neither Netanyahu nor Gantz had the 61 seats necessary to form a government,” Mr. Rivlin said at the ceremony. “Netanyahu’s ability to assemble an administration is higher at the moment,” the president said, noting that 10 Arab legislators in Mr. Gantz’s support bloc of 54, who recommended he nominate the ex-general, did not commit to joining a government.

Johnson calls SC verdict ‘wrong’, challenges Oppn.

Dares Labour to call a confidence vote

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday challenged Opposition MPs to call a confidence vote in his government, after the Supreme Court struck down his decision to suspend Parliament in the run-up to Brexit.

The ruling by Britain’s highest court on Tuesday that the suspension was unlawful was a stunning blow to Mr. Johnson’s authority just weeks before the country is due leave the European Union on October 31.

But the Conservative leader showed no contrition as he faced MPs in the House of Commons, which had hastily reconvened on Wednesday.

He condemned the verdict as “wrong” and, faced with calls to resign, challenged the main Opposition Labour Party and others to call an immediate confidence vote. “They have until the house rises today to table a motion of no confidence in the government, and we can have that vote tomorrow,” he said. “Will they have the courage to act or will they refuse to take responsibility and do nothing but dither and delay... what are they scared of?”

‘Rule out no-deal exit’

However, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said that while he wanted Mr. Johnson to resign, he would not back an election until the PM’s threat of leaving the EU without a divorce deal was removed. In the week before Parliament was suspended earlier this month, MPs pushed through a law requiring the Premier to delay Brexit by three months if he cannot strike exit terms with Brussels in time. Ad-



Britain’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson in London on Wednesday. ■ REUTERS

ressing a rowdy and packed Commons chamber, Mr. Corbyn said: “If he wants an election, get an extension and let’s have an election. “No one can trust this Prime Minister. “For the good of this country, he should go.”

Mr. Johnson, who flew back early from the UN General Assembly in New York to address the newly resumed Parliament, accused MPs of trying to undermining the 2016 Brexit vote. “We decided to call that referendum, we promised time and again to respect it. I think the people of this country have had enough of it,” he said. “This Parliament must either stand aside and let this government get Brexit done or bring a vote of confidence and finally face the day of reckoning with the voters.”

Mr. Johnson said Parliament was “gridlocked, paralysed and refusing to deliver on the priorities of the people”.

The Supreme Court ruling is a hammer blow to Mr. Johnson’s authority, and comes after a series of defeats in Parliament.

Rouhani rules out talks with U.S. under sanctions

Doubts sincerity of administration

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
UNITED NATIONS

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday ruled out negotiations with the U.S. so long as sanctions are in place and said he was not interested in a “memento photo” with President Donald Trump.

“I would like to announce that our response to any negotiation under sanctions is negative,” Mr. Rouhani said in an address to the UN General Assembly.

As European leaders sought to arrange a tension-reducing encounter between the Iranian and U.S. Presidents, Mr. Rouhani dismissed what he saw a photo-op for the media-hungry

Mr. Trump. “Memento photos are the final stage of negotiations, not the first one,” he said. He doubted the sincerity of the U.S. to negotiate, pointing to Trump administration officials’ boasts of damage inflicted by sanctions on Iran.

‘Iran will never forgive’

“How can someone believe them when the silent killing of a great nation, and pressure on the lives of 83 million Iranians, especially women and children, are welcomed by American government officials?”

“The Iranian nation will never, ever forget and forgive these crimes and these criminals,” he said.

ELSEWHERE



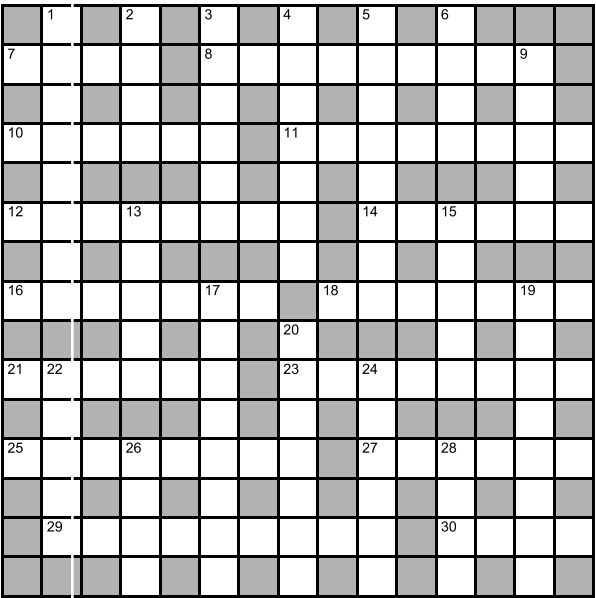
Putin urges dialogue as he meets Maduro

MOSCOW
President Vladimir Putin reiterated Russian support for Venezuela’s Nicolas Maduro in a meeting in Moscow on Wednesday and called for all sides to take part in talks to end the country’s crisis. AFP

Toll in Pok earthquake rises to 38

JATLAN
Rescuers battled along badly damaged roads and combed through toppled buildings on Wednesday to reach victims of an earthquake that killed at least 38 people and injured hundreds more in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The village of Jatlan appeared to be one of the worst affected. AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12740



■ ACROSS

- At first, financial legislation reveals defect (4)
- Cop’s at home with corpse mangled around topmost part of thigh (9)
- Drink is returned before the German’s assassination (6)
- Behatted Bond-maids are carted away in suit (8)

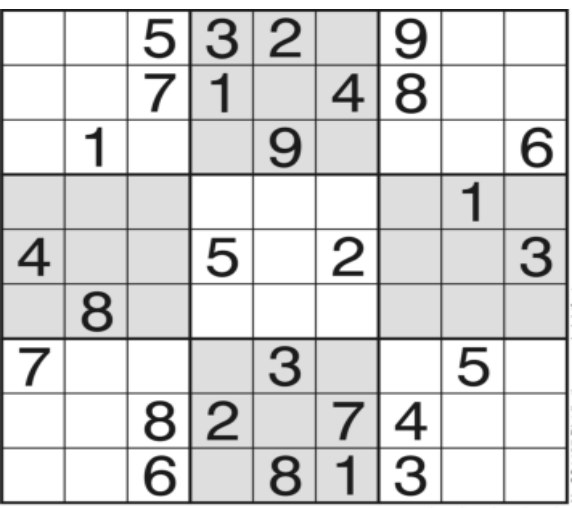
■ DOWN

- Enlighten sick university man in Europe (8)
- Outstanding ring! Marry! (4)
- Sire is confused over artist’s range in Spanish (6)

(set by Incognito)

- I lay a ham pudding in range (8)
- Add small program goal (6)
- Crush green olive and extract oil ... to settle a score (7)
- Initially procure flower part for animal (7)
- Organised a trek around Akishima, primarily to display martial art (6)
- Indian treated (holding a bit of rice) and brought upon oneself (8)
- Pawnbroker Samuel’s country relative? (5,3)
- Reveal peacekeeper’s initially mysterious question (6)
- Witnesses noted pens are displaced (9)
- To start with, purple writing fluid shows healthy colour (4)
- Secondhand automobile surprisingly raced us (4-3)
- Encountered a lawyer followed by volunteers providing information about information (8)
- Fragrant oil found in cottonseed (4)
- NORAD’s formulated a radioactive gas (5)
- Near a horrible sports venue (5)
- Safe Sellers? (5)
- Ganger is improperly applying lubrication (8)
- Vespers are not odd! Therefore, no good (8)
- Sickness ward’s mail’s misplaced at first (7)
- Bristled Dewan’s dancing (5)
- Flex muscle endlessly over Yankee ... that’s inelegant (6)
- Friend returned with penny for a European (4)
- Be listless about light motorcycle having no dynamo at first (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12739

H	D	S	P	C	A			
N	A	M	E	P	U	R	C	H
M	A	A	E	E	A	E		
O	S	I	R	S	C	L	A	P
T	M	I	P	O				
D	E	N	T	I	S	T	S	
R	A		E	S	O			
O	S	T	R	I	C	H		
S	O	S						
E	M	A	I	S	C	H	R	I
S	C	H	U	B	E	R	T	
H	S	T	H	I	A			
A	T	P	R	E	S	E	N	T
S	D	S	S	S	O			

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

9	8	4	2	7	3	5	6	1
7	2	3	1	6	5	4	8	9
1	6	5	4	8	9	3	2	7
3	4	7	6	2	8	1	9	5
2	5	8	9	3	1	7	4	6
6	9	1	7	5	4	2	3	8
5	3	9	8	4	7	6	1	2
4	1	6	5	9	2	8	7	3
8	7	2	3	1	6	9	5	4

FAITH

Sun’s praise for Moon

Sastras say that the Moon has sixteen kalas, or phases. The Moon is referred to as Shodasa alankara poorna. Rama shares a similarity with the Moon. Like the sixteen phases of the Moon, Rama has sixteen admirable qualities, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. In the beginning of the Ramayana, Narada visits Valmiki, and that latter asks him a question. Valmiki gives a list of sixteen qualities, and wants to know if there is anyone who has all these qualities. Narada at once says that Rama is the One who has all the qualities listed by Valmiki.

The important thing here is that Valmiki asks Narada to name a human being with these qualities, because it is difficult to find a mortal with all these qualities. The Moon gives us its coolness, but does it expect anything in return? In the same way, Rama gives us countless boons, but expects no quid pro quo. However, the Moon wanes for a fortnight, whereas Rama’s glory remains undiminished. Nammazhvar has been described as a Sun in Acharya Hridayam. Nammazhvar the Sun, praises Rama, the Moon! Nammazhvar in his Thiruvaimozhi refers to Rama as ‘piran.’ Nampillai explains this to mean one who helps. The proper way to help is to offer one’s services willingly, and without any expectation from the receiver. And that kind of selfless help is typical of Rama.

Every joy has its foundation in some hardship or suffering. Every pleasure in life has its base in some loss of mental peace. In his Sri Bhashya, Ramanujacharya says that what we think of as a joy is in fact not so. We judge something to be a source of joy or sorrow only on the basis of whatever knowledge we have. As our knowledge base expands, we become wiser. Only Lord Himself is beyond sorrow.

MARKET WATCH		
	25-09-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,594	-1.29
US Dollar	71.04	-0.04
Gold	39,182	0.41
Brent oil	61.73	-3.15

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	414.80	0.95
Asian Paints	1751.80	-14.10
Axis Bank	694.95	-9.45
Bajaj Auto	2941.00	-17.15
Bajaj Finserv	8255.60	-14.90
Bajaj Finance	3930.90	-30.85
Bharti Airtel	341.65	-7.00
BPEL	465.20	3.90
Britannia Ind	3036.00	-44.20
Cipla	434.60	-15.65
Coal India	192.60	-5.55
Dr Reddys Lab	2773.35	-11.90
Eicher Motors	17600.10	-834.15
GAIL (India)	136.45	-2.80
Grasim Ind	724.15	-25.55
HCL Tech	1053.85	6.45
HDFC	2069.95	-60.05
HDFC Bank	1239.70	-14.10
Hero MotoCorp	2704.25	-51.70
Hindalco	189.90	-7.90
Hind Unilever	2051.50	1.05
Indiabulls HFL	423.90	-11.10
ICICI Bank	434.20	-6.70
IndusInd Bank	1503.90	-12.40
Bharti Infratel	257.35	-0.30
Infosys	1467.55	-1.40
Indian OilCorp	140.70	-2.00
ITC	247.55	-8.45
JSW Steel	234.40	1.05
Kotak Bank	1601.60	-16.50
L&T	1450.10	-31.20
M&M	534.70	-24.05
Maruti Suzuki	6638.50	-370.60
NTPC	116.90	1.75
ONGC	131.45	-2.05
PowerGrid Corp	198.75	8.30
Reliance Ind	1279.55	0.85
State Bank	280.25	-22.35
Sun Pharma	406.75	-2.90
Tata Motors	123.05	-7.85
Tata Steel	362.05	-8.75
TCS	2088.45	43.75
Tech Mahindra	705.90	2.05
Titan	1268.90	-23.75
UltraTech Cement	4277.85	-40.15
UPL	576.75	-2.65
Vedanta	156.20	-3.75
Wipro	238.80	-1.90
YES Bank	53.70	-2.35
Zee Entertainment	273.45	-5.55

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 25		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.83	71.15
Euro	77.82	78.18
British Pound	87.82	88.22
Japanese Yen (100)	65.94	66.27
Chinese Yuan	9.94	9.99
Swiss Franc	71.79	72.12
Singapore Dollar	51.41	51.64
Canadian Dollar	53.36	53.62
Malaysian Ringgit	16.89	17.00

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
September 25 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	52	(52)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3642	(3614)

RBI, govt. rebut rumours of PSB closure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Following rumours on social media that 9 public sector banks would be shut, both the Reserve Bank of India and the Finance Ministry, in separate statements dismissed any such action.

“Reports appearing in sections of the social media about RBI closing down certain commercial banks are false,” the RBI spokesperson said in his Twitter handle.

Finance secretary Rajeev Kumar also took to Twitter to post a strong rebuttal. “No question of closing any PSB, which are articles of faith,” he said.

Mr. Kumar added, “Rather, govt. is strengthening PSBs with reforms and infusion of capital to better serve its customers.”

‘Need to grow at 10% for unemployment to go’

Target within reach, says Swamy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The economy needs to grow at 10% a year – and it can – for unemployment to be removed in 10 years, according to Member of Parliament Subramanian Swamy.

“What the country needs is 10% growth annually, which is within reach,” Dr. Swamy said, while speaking at the launch of his book ‘Reset: Regaining India’s Economic Legacy’. “We have the potential for it. We have a very high savings rate, but it is inefficiently used.”

Dr. Swamy went on to say that the high level of unemployment today could largely be put down to the policies implemented by former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan during his term.

“Everybody thought

Stocks lose ground amid global sell-off

Auto, banking, realty shares worst hit; Hang Seng, Kospi also lose, inquiry against Trump causes jitters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Indian equity benchmarks lost more than a per cent each on Wednesday amid a global sell-off, as investors turned jittery over renewed geopolitical tensions and domestic slowdown concerns. While investors sold shares across sectors, the worst hit were automobile, banking and realty stocks.

The 30-share Sensex lost 503.62 points, or 1.29%, to close at 38,593.52 as index heavyweights like HDFC, Tata Motors, State Bank of India, Maruti Suzuki India, Yes Bank, ITC, L&T and M&M, all lost more than 2% each.

The broader Nifty closed at 11,440.20, shedding 148 points, or 1.28%. The sectoral indices representing realty and public sector banks,

SBI tanks, brokerage raises asset quality issue

‘Stressed borrowers, a concern’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

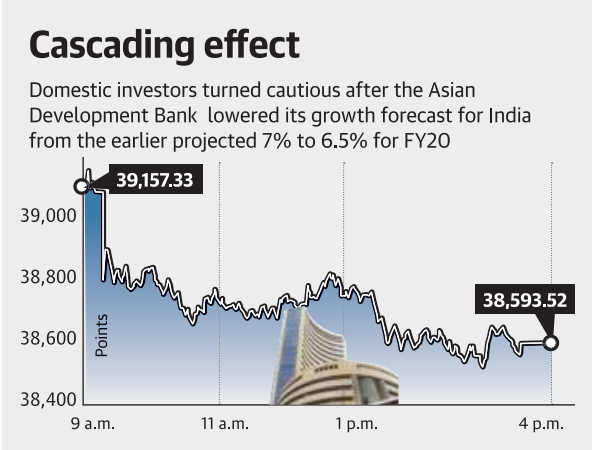
Shares of State Bank of India (SBI) fell over 7% on Wednesday even as a brokerage pointed out that concerns around its asset quality remained elevated.

Morgan Stanley estimated SBI’s credit costs at 180 bps (basis points) for FY20 and 125 bps for FY21 compared with 270 bps in FY19.

“This would represent a sharp improvement, but our confidence in these estimates is not very strong,” Morgan Stanley said in a report.

‘Credit crunch’

“There is a credit crunch among weaker-rated borrowers as flow of credit from



however, lost 3.06% and 5.63%, respectively. The fall in the banking index was primarily due to SBI, which lost more than 7% after Morgan Stanley downgraded the stock on concerns related to asset quality.

Elsewhere in Asia, both Hang Seng and Kospi lost over 1% each, while the benchmarks of all other leading markets ended in the red.

The global sell-off was primarily due to launch of a formal impeachment inquiry of

‘Remove DDT to boost investment’

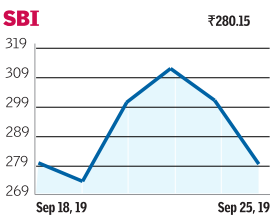
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The task force on direct tax code (DTC) has recommended abolishing the dividend distribution tax (DDT) with a view to promoting investment.

The DDT is a surrogate tax and hinders foreign direct investment inflows, sources said.

Dividends paid by a domestic company are subject to dividend distribution tax at 15% of the aggregate dividend declared, distributed or paid.

According to sources, there would hardly be any revenue loss by eliminating the dividend distribution tax, since it would be offset by the taxes paid by shareholders.



challenged lenders has stalled,” it added, pointing out it does not see signs of this reversing yet, implying risk of continued defaults.

SBI shares ended 7.37% lower at ₹280.15 on the BSE.

“Given SBI’s size, it is one of the largest lenders to many of these stressed borrowers. The other risk would be if SBI were asked to help any of the challenged lenders should they face distress,” the report added.

Uncertainty in U.S. during a slowdown can put further brakes on growth

GAURAV DUA,
Head - Capital Market Strategy & Investments, Sharekhan

U.S. President Donald Trump. While speaking at the United Nations, the U.S. President fired a fresh salvo at China, saying that the time of trade “abuses” by Beijing was over.

“The approval of impeachment investigations against U.S. President has unnerved the markets,” said Gaurav Dua, head - Capital Market Strategy & Investments, Sharekhan.

“The political uncertainty in USA at the time of slowdown in the economy could certainly put further brakes

PM’s economic advisory council reconstituted

JP Morgan’s Sajjid Chinoy inducted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday announced that it had reconstituted the Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council for a period of two years.

“Government of India has reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) for a period of two years with effect from September 26, 2019,” it said in a statement.

“Dr. Bibek Debroy and Shri Ratan P. Watal will continue to be the chairman and member secretary, respectively, of the reconstituted EAC-PM.”

The release added that the EAC-PM would have two part-time members apart

from the two full-time members. Ashima Goyal will be retained as a part-time member and joined by Sajjid Chinoy, currently JP Morgan’s chief India economist.

“Apart from these two full-time members, the EAC-PM will have two part-time members,” the release added. “While Dr. Ashima Goel continues to be one of the part-time members, Dr. Sajjid Chinoy has been made as another part-time member.”

What the government did not expressly mention was that, with this structure and appointments, the two dissenting members Rathin Roy and Shamika Ravi have not been retained.

Listed companies must promptly disclose details of default: bourses

‘Firms should inform CRAs about delayed loan repayments’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Amid the hammering of share prices due to loan defaults and subsequent actions by lenders against borrower companies, all listed companies have been asked to promptly disclose to the exchanges all “material developments” relating to the defaults, including about inter-creditor agreements.

The direction has been issued by the BSE and the NSE in consultation with the capital markets regulator SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India).

More surveillance

Besides, the two exchanges have also announced additional surveillance measures for companies wherein the creditors of a listed compa-

Tax rate cuts likely to trigger fresh FPI flows

‘Indian market now more competitive’

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR MUMBAI

The cut in corporate tax rates announced by the government last week has provided the much-needed trigger for foreign investors to look at fresh investments in Indian equities.

While market participants believe that it might be too early to expect a reversal or even a slowdown in the outflows, they feel that the lower tax liability has certainly made the Indian market more competitive in terms of attracting foreign capital.

Last week, the government slashed the effective corporate tax rate to 25.17% and said that new domestic manufacturing firms incorporated after October 1 would be eligible for a tax rate of 15% without any incentives.

On Monday – the first trading session after the tax cuts – foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) were net buyers at nearly ₹2,700 crore, which was one of the highest single-day net purchases by overseas investors in recent times.

While FPIs have been net sellers in the following two trading sessions, market experts believe that the tax cuts would have a positive effect on FPI flows but it will take some time for the impact to be visible.

‘Will take time’

“The tax cuts have made India quite competitive compared to other emerging markets,” said U.R. Bhat, MD, Dalton Capital Advisors India.

“It has the potential to attract large FPI flows but it will take some time. The impact cannot be seen in a few weeks but it’s a very good



starting point,” said Mr. Bhat.

“U.S.-China trade talks collapse or the initiation of impeachment proceedings against the U.S. President are big global developments and these events will certainly impact the Indian market. But, other things being equal, the tax regime has become attractive and foreign investors would be more attracted towards the Indian market than earlier,” he explained.

This assumes significance as FPIs continued to sell Indian stocks even after the government rolled back the tax surcharge that was announced in the Union Budget.

FPIs were net sellers at nearly ₹7,000 crore between August 23 – when the rollback was announced – and September 23 when tax rate cuts were announced.

The Sensex registered its biggest single-day gain in over a decade on September 20 even as some of the leading global financial majors were quick to raise their Sensex or Nifty targets post the tax rate cuts, reflecting a renewed bullish outlook.

Citi raised its March 2020 Sensex target from the earlier 39,000 to 40,500 while Nomura raised its Nifty March 2020 target to 12,545 on the back of a potential 7% earnings increase in FY21.

‘Mobile phone export grows over 8-fold’

Shipments exceed imports for the first time, says industry body ICEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Mobile handset exports grew over eight-fold to ₹11,200 crore in 2018-19 and exceeded imports for the first time, industry body ICEA said in a note.

Handset exports during April-July 2019 reached around ₹7,000 crore, thereby creating grounds to hit an annual figure of ₹25,000 crore in the current fiscal, according to the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA).

“The mobile handset manufacturing industry is continuing its juggernaut. 800% year-on-year growth in exports has been witnessed during 2018-19 over 2017-18 figures though on a small base. This is a humble but robust beginning for a glorious future which bodes well for the nation,” ICEA chairman Pankaj Mohindroo wrote in



India calling: The country has set a target of making 100 crore mobile handsets indigenously by 2025. ■S. SIVA SARAVANAN

the note.

Total number of handsets produced in India reached 29 crore units valued at ₹1.81 lakh crore in 2018-19, from a precariously placed 5.8 crore units manufactured in 2014-15 and valued at ₹18,900 crore with exports crashing to almost zero after shutdown of the Nokia plant,

as per ICEA.

Net zero imports

The government has set “net zero imports” in electronics by 2020 under Digital India roadmap released in August 2014.

For mobile handset segment alone, the government, under the National

Policy on Electronics 2019, had set a target of making 100 crore mobile handsets indigenously by 2025, valued at about ₹13 lakh crore.

Out of the 100-crore mobile handset manufacturing target, 60 crore units will be for exports valued at about ₹7 lakh crore.

“Import of handsets, as a percentage of domestic market demand, which was approximately 80% in 2014-15, came down appreciably to 6% in 2018-19 with the sector leading towards ‘net zero’ import status faster than expected,” he said.

He said the mobile handset exports at ₹11,200 crore have exceeded imports of handsets in 2018-19 which is recorded for the first time ever. “Mobile imports stood at ₹10,000 crore in 2018-19. Symbolically, this is a very important achievement for India,” he said.

Slowdown edges out 112 from India Rich list

Indian headcount rises to 953 from 831 last year; network of 344 individuals falls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The economic slowdown and rupee depreciation have led to significant erosion in the network of Indian billionaires, with 344 individuals registering a net drop in wealth compared to 2018, constituting almost 50% of Hurun India Rich List 2018.

A total of 112 individuals dropped out from IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2019, which says the number of U.S. dollar billionaires in the list has dropped for the first time since the inception of Hurun India Rich List in 2012. However, the slowdown is not as bad compared to that of China, where Hurun China Rich List registered 266 dropouts. In 2014, when the NDA government took charge, the number of U.S. dollar Indian billionaires increased by 60% to 109. Interestingly, while

Changing fortunes				
Rank	Name	Wealth (₹cr.)	Change	Company
1	Mukesh Ambani	3,80,700	3%	Reliance Industries
2	S.P. Hinduja & family	1,86,500	17%	Hinduja Group
3	Azim Premji	1,17,100	22%	Wipro
4	L.N. Mittal & family	1,07,300	-6%	ArcelorMittal
5	Gautam Adani & family	94,500	33%	Adani Ports & SEZ
6	Uday Kotak	94,100	20%	Kotak Mahindra Bank
7	Poon S. Pooanwalla	88,800	22%	Serum Institute of India

Source: Hurun Research Institute; IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2019

the number of Indians in the list has grown from 831 in 2018 to 953, the number of dollar billionaires has reduced from 141 to 138.

Top for 8th straight year

Mukesh Ambani, chairman of India’s second-most-valued firm Reliance Industries, continues to top the list

for the eighth consecutive year, with a total net worth of ₹380,700 crore. His brother Anil Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Group, has seen maximum erosion in his wealth from ₹19,500 crore last year to less than ₹1,000 crore this year, forcing an exit from the list.

London-based S.P. Hindu-

ja and family, worth ₹186,500 crore, retains the second rank in the list.

With a wealth of ₹1,17,100 crore, Azim Premji, founder of Wipro, rose to the third spot. L.N. Mittal, chairman & CEO of ArcelorMittal, is the fourth richest with a wealth of ₹1,07,300 crore. Gautam Adani stormed into the top 5 with a total wealth of ₹94,500 crore, a growth of 33% over last year.

While the cumulative wealth for this year shows an increase of 2% compared to last year, the average wealth shows a decline of 11%.

Anas Rahman Junaid, MD and chief researcher, Hurun Report India, told *The Hindu*, “Slowdown definitely has an impact on the rankings of Indian billionaires. When the stock market goes down, it has direct impact on the market valuations of these companies.”

‘No more discount on fuel payment by credit card’

‘0.75% cut strained OMC finances’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Credit card payments to buy fuel at petrol pumps will from October 1 not get the 0.75% discount that State-owned oil companies had introduced more than two-and-a-half years back to promote digital payments.

“Dear SBI credit cardholder, as advised by public sector oil marketing companies, the 0.75% cashback on fuel transactions will be discontinued with effect from October 1, 2019,” the country’s largest bank in a text message informed its credit card customers.

The government had asked Indian Oil Corp., Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd. to give a 0.75% discount on card payments for fuel purchases after a wides-

pread cash crunch in late 2016 following demonetisation of 86% of currency notes in circulation.

The 0.75% discount on the value of fuel purchases using credit/debit cards and e-wallets was straining the finances of OMCs.

The government had also directed OMCs to bear the burden of card payment charges called merchant discount rate (MDR), which is usually paid by the retailer.

However, an industry official said that the discount on debit card and other digital modes of payments would continue. The three fuel retailers paid ₹1,165 crore in e-payment discount; and ₹266 crore to banks for bearing MDR, totalling ₹1,431 crore in 2017-18. In 2018-19, the outgo was almost ₹2,000 crore.

IN BRIEF



Uber to offer accident insurance to riders

NEW DELHI
Ride-hailing giant Uber said it would offer free insurance to its riders in case of accidents. Riders will be insured for up to ₹5 lakh in case of accidental death or disability and up to ₹2 lakh for hospitalisation, including an OPD benefit of up to ₹50,000. Uber, which operates in over 40 Indian cities, has partnered with Bharti AXA to provide insurance for car rides and with Tata AIG for auto and Uber Moto rides. PTI

Sachin Bansal picks up majority stake in CRIDS

NEW DELHI
Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal has acquired stake in Chaitanya Rural Intermediation Development Services (CRIDS) and infused ₹739 crore into the non-banking financial company. Mr. Bansal will also assume the role of CEO, a statement said. Founded by Anand Rao and Samit Shetty, CRIDS provides credit access to the under-banked and a majority of its business is in the area of microfinance. PTI

CG Power board names Guha as chairman

NEW DELHI
CG Power and Industrial Solutions on Wednesday said its board has appointed a non-executive independent director Ashish Kumar Guha as its chairman with effect from September 25, 2019. The board has approved the proposal to set up special situation committee. The broad terms of reference of the panel is to focus on operational improvement, capital re-structuring, among others. PTI

IRCTC ₹645-cr. IPO opens Sept. 30

Post-issue, government's stake will come down to 87.5% from 100% now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), the railways' online ticketing, tourism and catering arm, plans to enter the capital market with an initial public offer of ₹645 crore.

The public issue will open for subscription on September 30 and close on October 3. The company is the only entity authorised by the Ministry of Railways to provide catering services to the railways, offer online railway tickets and packaged drinking water at railway stations and trains in India.

The public offering is part of the government's disinvestment programme and will lead to the holding by the government — which holds the stake through Mi-



IRCTC is the only entity authorised by the Ministry of Railways to provide catering services to the railways. ■ RAMESH SHARMA

nistry of Railways — declining from the current 100% to 87.5%. The company will offer nearly 2.02 crore shares in the price band of ₹315 to ₹320 each.

The company will also be

any proceeds from the issue.

IRCTC earns the maximum revenue (55%) from its catering operations followed by travel and tourism (23.38%), ticketing (12.35%) and 'Rail Neer' (9.28%).

53 million users
Incidentally, the IRCTC ticketing website has more than 53 million registered users and about 8.4 lakh tickets are booked daily with the annual transaction value pegged at ₹36,000 crore.

For the financial year ended March 31, 2019, the company reported a net profit of ₹272.56 crore, which was higher than the previous year's ₹220.62 crore. The company, which is completely debt-free, had cash reserves of ₹1,140.04 crore as on March 31, 2019.

Johnson Lifts sets up ₹125-cr. unit

Company's new facility can manufacture 6,000 lifts a year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI
Johnson Lifts, a manufacturer of elevators and escalators, has set up a new unit at Sengadu, near here, to produce 6,000 lifts per annum, said a top official.

"Foreseeing the growth in lift requirement, we have set up a new, integrated, fully-automated lift factory at Sengadu, by investing ₹125 crore," said V. Jagannathan, executive director, Johnson Lifts Pvt. Ltd.



V. Jagannathan

Capacity for 18,000 lifts
With this unit, the company will have four plants in India that can collectively make 18,000 lifts and 1,500 escalators a year.

"Besides, we have also expanded our Oragadam unit with an additional line for heavy duty escalators at a

cost of ₹13 crore to produce 500 escalators per annum. The first line has a capacity to produce 600 commercial escalators per annum," he said. Asserting the firm had not been impacted by the economic slowdown, Mr. Jagannathan said the firm was aiming at a sales turnover of ₹3,000 crore for FY20 compared with ₹2,000 crore for

FY19. To a question, he said opportunities in government schemes, affordable housing and smart cities, upgradation of railway stations, airports, infrastructure projects and leveraging tier-II and tier-III cities and north eastern States will enable the firm to achieve its sales target. "Last year, we sold 10,000 lifts and 1,400 elevators and this fiscal, our aim is to sell 13,000 lifts and 1,600 elevators.

"Besides, we will be entering new overseas markets," said Yohan K. John, director, Johnson Lifts. Albert Dhiraviyam, country head, marketing, said Johnson had orders from Chennai Metro Rail Phase-1 Extension work for ₹33 crore, Mumbai Metro for ₹247 crore and Central and Western Railways for ₹197 crore.

NCLT asks Jet lenders to release interim funds

Money must be given within 15 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI
The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Wednesday directed the financial creditors of the grounded Jet Airways to release some interim lifeline funds within 15 days.

The lenders had in-principle sanctioned ₹63 crore to the RP (resolution professional) and SBI, the lead lender, had reportedly already disbursed its portion of ₹10 crore.

However, other lenders such as Yes Bank and Punjab National Bank are yet to release their portions.

Therefore, the NCLT directed the lenders to release the amount within 15 days.

The RP had moved NCLT

on September 20 seeking directions to the lenders, who own 51% in the airline since March, to release interim funds.

The lenders had earlier approved to sanction ₹63 crore in interim funding to meet the day-to-day needs and also fees for the RP.

The RP had informed the tribunal that if the interim financing is not done in time, the corporate insolvency resolution process would come to a halt.

Following this, the lenders had approved interim financing measures.

The NCLT, had on June 20, admitted the insolvency petition filed by the lenders' consortium led by State Bank against Jet.

Fortum to add 300 MW solar power annually

Finnish major's India arm plans to invest ₹6,500 crore in the country over 5 years

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI
Fortum India, a unit of the €5-billion Finland-based Fortum Oyj, plans to set up 300 MW of solar power capacity each year in India for the next five years, taking its total installed capacity to over 2,100 MW.

The investment will be about ₹1,300 crore per year, totalling investments of ₹6,500 crore in the next five years.

Sanjay Aggarwal, MD, Fortum India Pvt. Ltd. said, "We are planning to add 300 MW of solar capacity in India every year. India is the hub for Fortum's solar expansion. We have an installed capacity of around 700 MW in solar."

The company has its parent's approval for invest-



Bright sheen: Fortum aims to take its total installed capacity to over 2,100 MW. ■ KOMMURI SRINIVAS

ments of up to €400 million in India.

India's solar capacity had reached 30,000 MW by July 2019 and the government has a target to reach 1 lakh MW capacity of solar power

by 2022 with potential investments of \$100 billion.

When asked if the target of 1 lakh MW by 2022 was achievable, Mr. Aggarwal said, "We have leapfrogged from 400 MW of solar capac-

ity in 2012-13 to over 30,000 MW now. Last year alone, we added over 8,000 MW. I think we can do around 10,000 MW each year in the coming years."

Fortum has entered into a 50:50 joint venture with Numaligarh Refinery Limited to set up a bio-ethanol plant in north east with a project cost of ₹1,500 crore. The company will use bamboo as raw material for its bio-ethanol plant.

"The construction of the plant has started and the project is likely to be completed by 2021. We will be selling the ethanol to Numaligarh Refinery," said Mr. Aggarwal.

Fortum is also planning to set up electric vehicle charging stations across India.

Dvara KGFS raises ₹70 cr. from NMI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI
Dvara KGFS, formerly Pudhhuaru Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., has received an equity inflow of ₹70 crore from Norway-based Nordic Microfinance Initiative (NMI) to expand its operations.

"With the current round of funding, we have received ₹167 crore," said Samir Shah, executive vice-chair and group president, Dvara Trust. "The funds will be used to expand our operations, pursue inorganic growth opportunities and invest in scaling up technology infrastructure," he said.

Dvara KGFS also plans to raise ₹200 crore through an NCD issue next quarter.

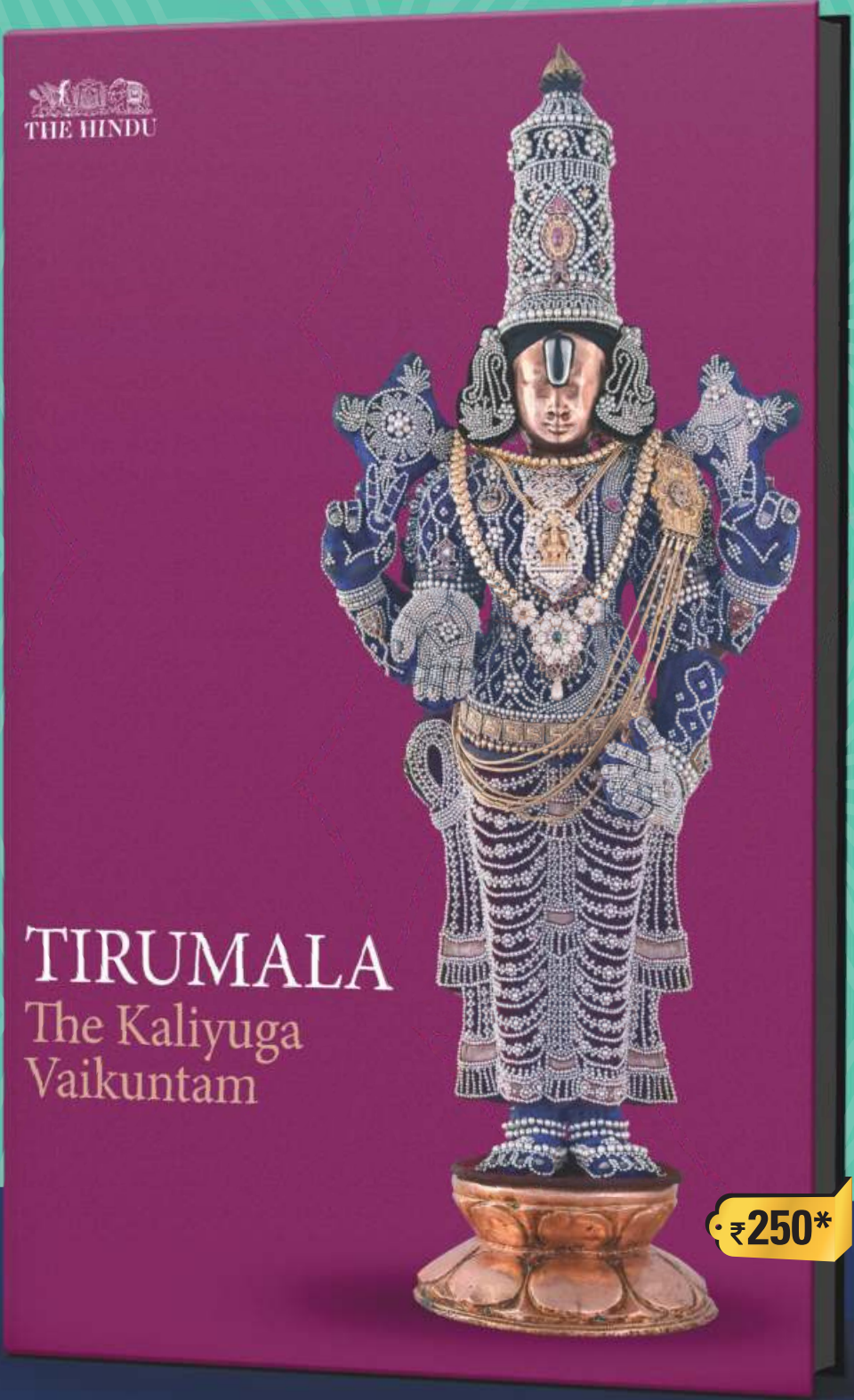
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‘There’s no hero-giri in the show’

Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D K on their new Prime Video series *The Family Man*, and creating a homespun government agent who banks on the system of *jugaad*

SUCHETA CHAKRABORTY

When asked whether their new series engages with the popular and oft-visited espionage genre, Raj Nidimoru, one half of the writer-director duo popularly known as Raj and DK, says, “We didn’t want to be derivative by making *another* spy show like another spy show”. Raj’s partner-in-film, Krishna D K asserts that there are no examples in popular culture to draw direct parallels to: “I don’t think there is another show like this, with this tone, in this subject.” Raj clarifies that rather than a conventional spy show, their 10-episode series is a take on the geopolitical scenario in the subcontinent today. Author Suman Kumar who has a keen sense of the geopolitics of the country, assisted the duo with research and plotting and was a great addition to how they usually write.

Down to earth

For their show the creators did not want to rely on technologies which are so commonly used in spy thrill-

ers. “I don’t even know if some of them exist,” says Raj, “Where you could type on your laptop and open a bank vault somewhere.” The idea instead was to add a local, native flavour and use the *jugaad* system to find solutions. “There’s no hero-giri in the show,” insists DK. “These are normal, somewhat trained people, rising to the occasion and figuring out what to do.” Moreover, Raj remarks that the biggest draw is the humour, an element not traditionally associated with an anti-terrorism show.

The regular guys

At the centre of *The Family Man* is someone who, as DK puts it,

Spy story Stills from *The Family Man* ■ VIJAY BATE, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



We still think we are making a movie, just slightly longer
KRISHNA D K
Filmmaker



We were waiting to do a long format series
RAJ NIDIMORU
Filmmaker

PEOPLE

A TikTok turnaround

How an NCR-based acting aspirant became a spoken-English sensation on TikTok

Once a practising lawyer in the United States, Sangeeta Jain — “older than an average TikTok user” — is now a star, popularly known as Geet, on the platform. She has two channels on the video platform: on the first, @TheOfficialGeet, she puts up motivational, self-care, and self-help videos; on the second, @EnglishWithGeet, she shares snippet-sized spoken English lessons. “*Hindi se English seekhne ke liye mere saath TikTok par judh jaiye*,” is her consistent sign off.

Geet, who grew up in Seattle, wanted to be an actor. A childhood accident though, paralysed her waist-down. Her dependence on a wheelchair had kept her from breaking into the film industry. After being back-and-forth between India and the U.S., to work with children and at-risk youth here, in 2014 Geet participated on a Zee TV reality show, *India’s Best Cinestars ki Khoj*. She couldn’t make it past the dance rounds.

“With that, the acting *keeda* had come back again,” she says. In August 2015, with her brother’s encouragement, she started her own Facebook Page. But not knowing what would work, she started with motivational videos.

She took this to TikTok in February last year, while also putting up comedy shorts that she made with her 87-year-old grandmother. “But to my surprise, it was the motivational videos that did better; we had videos on socially relevant topics like domestic violence, *saas bahu* relationships, and confidence. I was getting thousands of views and comments even within the first few weeks,” recalls Geet.

Over time, noticing that her Hindi was weaker than her English, which she still speaks with an American accent, her audience started writing in with special request to clarify something. And so it began. She started with simple vocabulary (“gorgeous” instead of saying “very pretty”) or correcting common mistakes (saying “ladies” even for singular usage, instead of “lady”). Her mother and grandmother starred in the video, acting like two people in conversation who didn’t know the right usage.

Today, Geet (she has about 4.5M followers on TikTok, 51.4k subscribers on YouTube and 5.4M followers on Facebook) also makes videos where she teaches English by translating a couple lines from popular Hindi songs. On Facebook and YouTube, she does a three-minute long series, which she makes and stars in, with other actors.

Given her legal training in the United States, Geet says she believes in the freedom of speech.

The TikTok suspension for a brief time in April by the Madras High Court, didn’t stop her from uploading videos, because technically “the app was still alive,” she recalls, adding that “it’s been great to see TikTok step up too,” with initiatives like Wait A Second To Reflect, a campaign that the platform started in August, and #EduTalk their in-app challenge, which started in June.

“The great thing is that the audience [on TikTok] is very eager to learn,” says Geet, who puts up three to five videos a day catering to different types of audiences, such as lessons on English words for kitchen appliances, or Hindi slang words and their equivalent in English.

VANGMAI PARAKALA

IN OUR BACKYARD

ABHISHEK GULSHAN

We know the Small Indian Mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*) well from our mythology and folk tales. Most of us have been told the tale of the mongoose in the Panchatantra protecting a baby from a snake. Unfortunately that story doesn’t end well. Seeing blood on its mouth the parents think the mongoose harmed their child and kill the animal.

The Small Indian Mongoose, with its little round ears, is an agile hunter and has a long snout-like face, and short legs that have sharp claws. It has brown or grey-grizzled fur and lives in abandoned burrows or tunnels. Despite the rat-like appearance, mongooses are not rodents.

Though not a domestic animal, it acts as a natural pest controller, feeding on rodents and insects, maintaining their population in a delicate urban ecosystem. Popularly called Newala in Hindi, it is a generalist omnivore mammal that sustains in a variety of habitats, even near human habitations.

The animal is terrestrial and tends to avoid going near water, but

does so sometimes to feed on Checkered Keelback and on small Rat Snakes, common non-venomous snakes found near sewage drains in cities. Historically, mongooses are known to fight and kill snakes, both venomous and non-venomous, particularly cobras. They are adept at this due to their speed and agility, sharp teeth and specialised receptors on their skin which make them relatively tolerant to snake venom, though not fully immune.

Wildlife is present even in the densest of cities. While certain species of animals interact with humans on a regular level, there are other species that may want to avoid coming in contact to avoid any kind of human-animal conflict.

The quick, brown mongoose

Your friendly neighbourhood pest ridder

The Small Indian Mongoose is the latter. On an uneventful quiet day in the city, you might even hear their squawk, bark, or growl-like calls to announce their presence

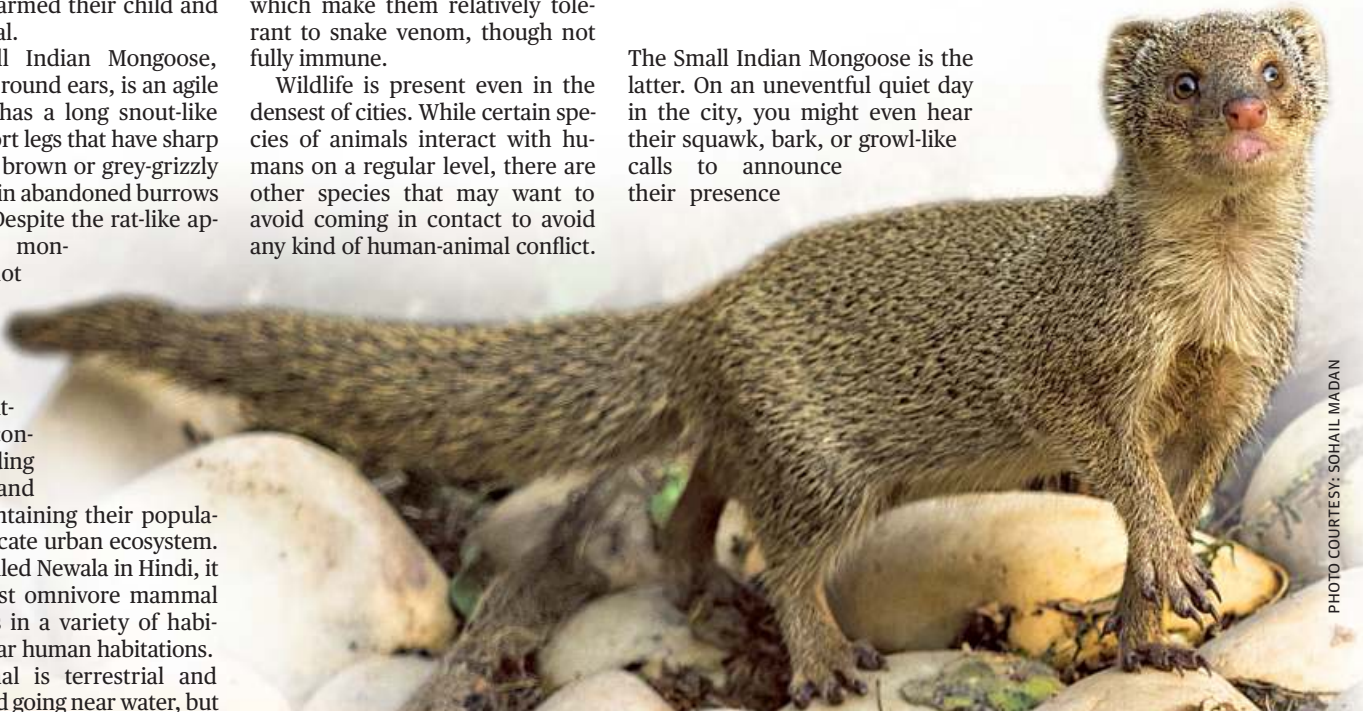


PHOTO COURTESY: SOHAIL MADAN

to other animals.

They have a limited prey-base in cities, leading them to behave as opportunistic hunters, hunting rodents that are on the rise due to inefficient garbage disposal. Sometimes they feed on birds and their eggs on trees, as they are excellent climbers. Their hunting prowess is aided by their keen senses of smell, sight and hearing, remarkable agility and reflexes, and the ability to go unnoticed. The young mongoose is often prey for birds like owls, thus maintaining the balance in the food chain. The young and old are also threatened by dogs.

Households these days resort to chemicals to get rid of rats. The use of these is making conditions unfavourable for the mongoose, snakes and owls. Even if not consumed directly, by feeding on rodents that have been exposed to these poisonous chemicals, these natural pest controllers in our backyards are at grave risk. We can reap the benefits of the services these creatures provide so graciously, at not cost whatsoever, if we leave them alone.

The writer is the founder of NI-NOX - Owl About Nature, a nature-awareness initiative. He is the Delhi-NCR reviewer for Ebird, a Cornell University initiative, monitoring rare sightings of birds. He formerly led a programme at WWF India.

PRODUCT

The island life



Good Earth recently launched their annual collection for the year. Called Maladvipa, the design language is inspired from the Maldives and the coral-island life of the Indian Ocean (mala means garland and *dvipa*, island). Colours are derived from the sea and the land that draws its tropical energy from the sun and the ocean. Expect sea jasm ne, leafy palms, red hibiscus, on tableware (bone China and ceramics), home decor items and linen. There’s also recycled glassware (abstract pieces from the bottom of the furnace) and brassware (from old locks).

At Good Earth stores countrywide, Goodearth.in; ₹2,000 upward

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE

DANCE

Classical

As part of IIC Double Bill Dance Recitals, there will be Bharatanatyam recital by Divya Ravi, a disciple of Guru Dr. Soundarya Srivatsa, this evening. This will be followed by a Odissi recital by Abhayalakshmi, a disciple of Sharmila Mukherjee. The event will conclude with a dance duet by both the artists, from Bengaluru.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

TIME: 6 p.m. onwards

EXHIBITION

Mixed media

Transiting Space is an ongoing solo show of paintings by abstract artist Shivani Garg, who is showcasing her recent mixed media and canvas works. A graduate in commerce, Shivani’s paintings speak of construction, destruction, and urbanisation. The artworks comprise acrylic, charcoal, textures, pen works, on canvas.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

CUISINE

Dimsum fest

Lord of the Drinks Noida, a multi-cuisine restaurant, has organised a Dimsum festival, till the end of September. The menu comprises a wide variety to choose from: Truffle Asparagus and Corn, Crystal Vegetable Dumpling, Bok Choy and Mushroom Dimsum, Chicken Thai Herb Dimsum and Shanghai Prawn.

VENUE: Garden Galleria Mall, Sector 38

TIME: 12 noon - 1 a.m.

PERFORMANCE

An Evening in Lodhi

French Institute in India and St+art India present a dance collaboration between French choreographer Ali Salmi and renowned Indian choreographer Astad Deboo, as part of the Malraux Seminar 2019. Through movement, the dancers will explore gravity and anti-gravity in an aerial and anchored dance form.

VENUE: Lodhi Art District, Block C, Lodhi Colony

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

FILM

French documentary

IHC Film Club will screen a French documentary, *Les glaneurs et la glaneuse*, this evening, as a tribute to the director, late Agnès Varda. The film captures the world of French gleaners, as they hunt for food, knickknacks, throw-away items, and even their personal connection, to the many aspects of gleanings.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.



A study in scarlet

Surrounding the scenic city of Visakhapatnam are many ecologically-sensitive zones perched along the coastline and the Eastern Ghats. Ahead of World Tourism Day, take a peek into these spots

NIVEDITA GANGULY

Towering red sand dunes – some as high as 40 feet – envelope you in a resounding silence at Erra Matti Dibbalu near Visakhapatnam. The occasional patch of green trees extends out of the sandy hills. Walking through the endless, meandering maze of these dunes, a rare geological occurrence in this part of the globe, can be a fascinating experience, if you have a knowledgeable guide along with you.

Located near Bheemunipatnam, the Erra Matti Dibbalu site is more than 12,000 years old. It was recognised as a national geo-heritage site in 2014 and as a protected site by the Andhra Pradesh Government in 2016. The only other place in the country to have a similar stretch of red sand dunes is Tamil Nadu, which has the Teri dune complex.

“Sand dunes, like other geologically-significant sites in and around Visakhapatnam, are Paleo-environmental indicators and these can give vital clues to the past and the future

for scientists,” says D Rajasekhara Reddy, advisor to Geo Heritage Cell of INTACH and former professor of Geology, Andhra University.

About 18,500 years ago, a major climatic shift took place during the Glacial Maximum Age. This phenomenon, interestingly, is linked to the formation of the red sand dunes.

“During that period, the sea had receded about 50 kilometres from the present coastline, with a vertical drop of 120 metres. As a result, the continental shelf was exposed and sand was transported and deposited on land,” explains Reddy. Incidentally, the sand was never the shade of red (as we see it today) back then. “The red colour is a result of geochemical alterations that happened over the years,” he states.

As you walk around the red sand dunes, you would notice a peculiar characteristic of these hills. The red dunes are neither rocky, nor sand-like, but have an unusual texture that binds them together. Only when you climb over these dunes and walk over the top of this geological



Frozen in time The red sand dunes; (top) natural rock formations of Thotlakonda



site can you get an idea of its vast expanse, spread over more than 100 acres.

Natural arch
A little before Erra Matti Dibbalu is another geologically-sensitive site, perched along the coastline of Thotlakonda.

Here one of the most noteworthy geological developments is still in progress. Thousands of years of wind and sand action along the

natural rock formation is still evolving with Nature. The formation began after the last Ice Age at around 10,000 years ago and is similar to the natural rock arch of Silathoranam in the Tirumala Hills,” he adds.

Wonders in Eastern Ghats
Moving towards the Eastern Ghats belt of Visakhapatnam opens up another site of geological significance – a volcanic ash site in Araku.

The Geological Survey of India has dated this site to be about 73,000 years old. Here, a large part of land is covered by a 70-centimetre-thick sheet of volcanic ashes, which moved all the way from the Mount Toba volcanic eruption that occurred about 75,000 years ago in Indonesia.

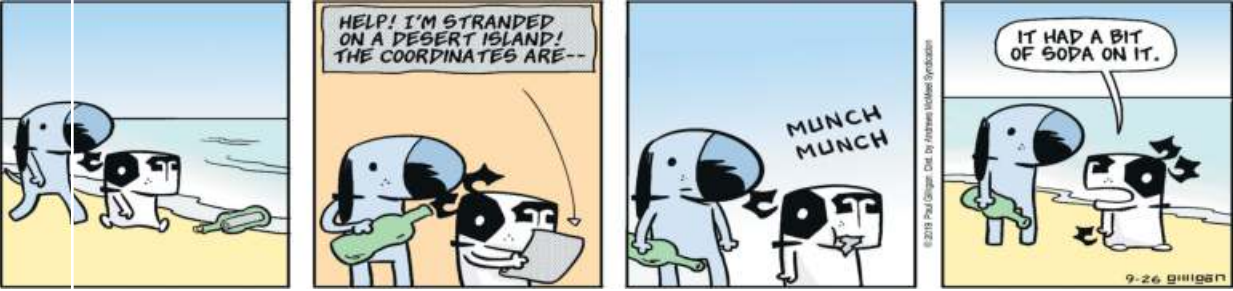
“The sites needs to be studied to understand the magnitude of the explosion, climatic condition then and how ash traversed such great distances to settle down in a remote corner of India,” says Reddy. “It is intriguing and provides a major clue in the reconstruction of the geological history of the rocks of the region.”

HOW TO GET THERE
ERRA MATTI DIBBALU: These red sand dunes are located at a distance of 45 kilometres from Visakhapatnam. It is well connected by buses and one can also hire a cab to reach there.

THOTLAKONDA NATURAL ARCH: The drive along the coastal stretch from Visakhapatnam towards Thotlakonda Buddhist Site is 36 kilometres. After crossing the site, a signboard mentions the presence of natural rock formations. Park your vehicle at the roadside and walk down towards the beach to discover these geological wonders.

ARAKU VALLEY: The scenic valley is situated at a distance of 120 kilometres from Visakhapatnam. It is well connected by train, bus and cabs.

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



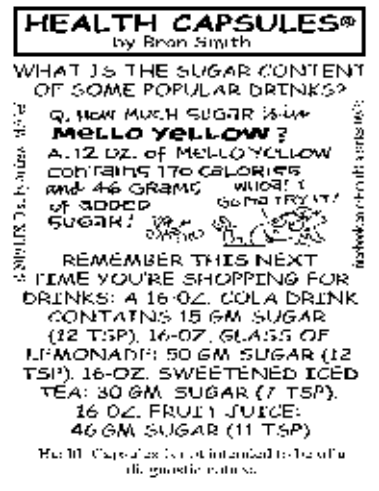
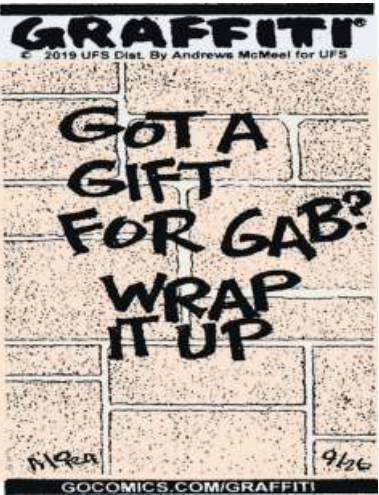
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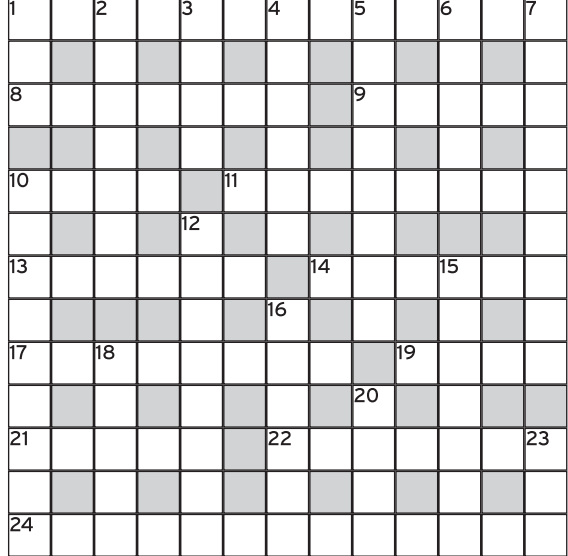
WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13184

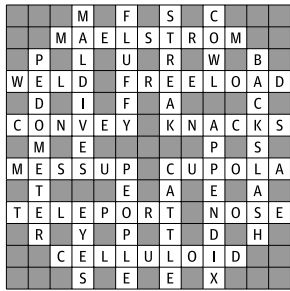


- Across
1 Skill with a blade (13)
8 Choose not to vote (7)
9 Social customs (5)
10 Title given in parts of Asia to important people (4)
11 Second-largest Mediterranean island, after Sicily (8)
13 Descendant of
- French settlers in Louisiana (6)
14 Back scrubber (6)
17 Rep (8)
19 Norwegian city, formerly Kristiania (4)
21 Lrk (5)
22 Set on fire (7)
24 Severe reprimand (6-7)
- Down
1 Salt water (3)
2 Visible to the theatre

- audience (7)
3 Having two distinct functions (4)
4 Handbook (6)
5 Casually mention famous people you know (4-4)
6 Great Lake (5)
7 Green nut (9)
10 Stimulate (4-5)
12 Gesundheit! (5,3)
15 Spiral pasta (7)
16 Wild dog-like animal (6)
18 Cloth made from flax (5)
20 Social insects (4)
23 Turn up earth (3)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 27, 2019.

Solution No. 13183



Dravid to depose



Rahul Dravid.
*K. MURALI KUMAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A high profile conflict of interest (COI) issue-related hearing will be conducted here on Thursday by the BCCI Ethics Officer Justice (Retd) D.K. Jain, and attention will be on one of India's most distinguished cricketers, Rahul Dravid.

The coach and mentor of the India-A and U-19 was recently appointed Head of the NCA.

It has been alleged that Dravid is on the payrolls of India Cements, once-owner of the IPL team Chennai Super Kings. COI rules say that an individual holding a BCCI post cannot be part of any other party associated with BCCI's activities.

Lanka-India T20I series

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Sri Lanka will play three T20Is against India on January 5 (Guwahati), Jan. 7 (Indore) and Jan. 10 (Pune). Sri Lanka is the replacement for Zimbabwe which was suspended by the ICC.

All eyes on the sky as rain looms

South Africans and BPXI players keen to get some action ahead of the Test series

SA IN INDIA

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
VIZIANAGARAM

Rain threat persists as the visiting South African team and the Board President's XI are scheduled to meet in a three-day warm-up game at the Dr. PVG Raju Sports Complex here from Thursday.

Rains lashed the town on Wednesday morning but receded by afternoon much to the relief of the District Association officials. "If it doesn't rain tonight, then there will be a prompt start to the match," said a senior VDCA official.

With the first Test between India and South Africa scheduled for Visakhapatnam from October 2, this match assumes significance as it is expected to provide a platform for the fringe players to raise the bar and grab the attention of the national selectors.

More so for a player like captain Rohit Sharma, who had two forgetful outings in the T20I series against South Africa. The other Test squad member who will be the focus of attention is Mayank Agarwal.

Big match

In a way, this is a big match for players like Priyank Panchal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair and wicketkeeper-batsman K. Srikanth Bharat who, when he last played at this venue, scored a century against Hyderabad in a Ranji Trophy game.

The 31-year-old Umesh Yadav, who last played in a Test



The skipper's here! Rohit Sharma will look to make the warm-up game count. *K.R. DEEPAK

in 2018 and replaced the injured Jasprit Bumrah in the Test squad, should grab the chance to get into the groove before the first match.

It is no different for the likes of pacers Shardul Thakur, Avesh Khan and all-rounder Jalaj Saxena.

On the other hand, this will be the final opportunity

for skipper Faf du Plessis, vice-captain Temba Bavuma and the in-form Quinton de Kock to fine-tune their skills for the longer format.

The teams (from): Board President's XI: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Mayank Agarwal, Priyank Panchal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Siddhesh Lad, K.S. Bharat (wk), Jalaj Saxena,

Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, Avesh Khan, Ishan Porel, Shardul Thakur, and Umesh Yadav.

South Africa XI: Faf du Plessis (Capt.), Temba Bavuma (vice-capt.), Kagiso Rabada, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Vernon Philander, Keshav Maharaj, Dane Piedt, Zubair Hamza, Lungi Ngidi, Aiden Markram, Theunis de Bruyn, Heinrich Klassen, Anrich Nortje, and Senuran Muthusamy.

Pant dilemma: To be, or not to be?

Should he play his natural game or protect his spot?

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

The relatively new Rishabh Pant is already faced with a dilemma – should he play his natural game or change to protect his place in the squad?

Pant has faced criticism from various quarters for throwing away his wicket time and again.

"I think someone from the team-management should have a word with him," emphasised Virender Sehwag, who played all formats of the game with the same approach.

"He should do nothing," insisted Kapil Dev, who was known to never compromise with his natural flair to strike the ball, even if it was the first one he faced.

"For me, he must wait to feel the sweet touch of the ball on the bat. What is the hurry? He has the ability and the calibre. It is the temperament that he needs to work on. There is a thin line between failure and success. You connect the shot and you are a hero. If you don't, the same shot becomes your nemesis. It's a tough choice to make, but a choice has to be made before it is too late," was how Kapil put it.

Up to him

Having gone through ups and downs in his career, Sehwag knew how to deal with such situations and criticisms. "I took it philosophically. That's what Rishabh should also do. He should remember that anyone can flop. But it's important that he should have the backing of the coach (Shastri) and



No let up: Rishabh Pant has pressure being mounted on him with every outing. *K. MURALI KUMAR

captain (Kohli). Also, he should decide if he wants to keep playing his natural game or look to become a performer," said Sehwag.

The former India opener cited two examples for the benefit of Pant. "I flopped in 20 innings before I scored. But then I had the support of the team-management. I could regain form without changing my game because of that support. Similarly, MS (Dhoni) played his natural game and India lost a match which prompted skipper Dravid to speak to him.

"It brought about a change. MS became a performer the way Rahul wanted him to. Of course, he did curtail his natural game and learnt the art of finishing the game. I think Pant should also look to become a performer. He should concentrate on his shot selection. He has

awesome talent and if he improves his shot selection, I am sure he will serve India for the next 15 years," Sehwag said.

Matter of time

Kapil wanted Pant to "relax" and look to contribute consistently.

"I know he can hit fours and sixes at will but there are times when you have to be judicious. I was dropped once (in a Test in 1984) but then I could not blame anyone. I had given the selectors a chance to drop me. Pant should now look to deny anyone a chance to drop him. He has it in him and it's a matter of time before he regains his form and confidence. Let's back him."

As for Pant, he is doing what he has been asked to – play domestic cricket to re-organise his game.

KSL a real learning curve: Jemimah

Says her ability to finish games is the biggest takeaway from the league

SA WOMEN IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR
SURAT

When she burst out on to the international arena at the start of 2018, Jemimah Rodrigues, then 17, was tipped to carry forward the tradition of Mumbai's batting from the men's to the women's cricket arena.

Thanks to her rich rewards in the Kia Super League (KSL) in England – her maiden appearance in an overseas league – Jemimah seems to have justified the tag of being the next big thing.

Jemimah's exploits – 401 runs at 57.28 with a strike rate of 49.62, including a record unbeaten 112 off 58 balls – in England showed that the teenager has matured as a batter.

But more than her record-speech, she stressed that her ability to finish games as her biggest learning from the KSL sojourn.

Finish it

"I used to never finish a game. I used to bat well and not take it till the end. My dad (Ivan, also her coach) used to always say that a real champion is the one who



Managing the transition: Jemimah Rodrigues will be keen to transfer her gains from the KSL to India's cause. *VIJAY SONEJI

takes his team to victory. I could do it in the KSL. That was the biggest learning for me," a bubbly Jemimah told *The Hindu* on Wednesday, after persistent rain forced the Indian women to cancel their training session ahead

of Thursday's second T20I against South Africa.

That she was made to bat at No. 4 for a better part of the KSL – instead of her usual position in the top-three while playing for and in India – helped a great

deal.

"To get quick runs, bat with the tail, take the responsibility and see the team through was a real learning curve. I don't think I would have got that experience playing in India."

Growing experience

She admitted that the KSL stint was also a "growing experience" in terms of "getting out of the comfort zone." Her maturity came to the fore when she emphasised that during her topsy-turvy ride with the National team so far, the "lows have helped the most."

She admitted that carrying drinks during the Asia Cup last year created "self-doubts about whether I was good enough for international cricket," but also made her "work harder" on her game.

She may have turned 19 barely three weeks ago, but her clarity of thought proved that she was no longer the 'baby of the team', a tag she had to abandon during her professional commitment in England.

It was, in a way, symbolic that with the inclusion of the 15-year-old Shafali Verma in the squad, Jemimah is no longer the baby of the team.

Mixed day for Khade; Shoaan shines again

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

It was a bitter-sweet experience for Virdhawal Khade on the second day of the 10th Asian Age Group swimming championship here on Wednesday. He clinched the gold in his pet event – 50m freestyle – and came within 0.04 seconds of matching the meet record that he set as a teenager way back in 2009.

But his dream of bettering his personal best of 22.43 to inch closer to the Olympic Qualifying Time (22.01) A-mark was shattered as he could come home only in 22.59.

Disappointed

"Very disappointed," Khade said later. "I should have done way better. I got too excited and tried to power through. I got a brilliant start I feel, the start I had trained for. Usually I pull off after the 25m, but it just didn't happen because I ruined my technique due to over-excitement."

The 28-year-old still has time till June 29, 2020, to get the A-mark. But the competition in Bengaluru was the one he had targeted and had warmed up well by clocking 22.44 at the senior Nationals in Bhopal earlier this month.



The sizzler: The 14-year-old Shoaan Ganguly has made waves at the Asian Age Group meet. *SUDHAKARA JAIN

However, for 14-year-old Shoaan Ganguly, his maiden Age Group championship continued to get better as he added a silver to the gold and two silvers he had won on the opening day. In the Group II boys' 400 freestyle, he set a new personal best by finishing in 4:07.21. Later in the evening, he came fourth in 200m butterfly, but called it his "favourite" performance.

"It will now push me to do better the next time," Shaan said later. "This is my first Asian meet. I just wanted to give my best time. Pradeep [Kumar] sir trained us for 4 to 5 weeks. The camp was a bit hard but good. He told me that the competition will be

very hard. [But] it was not as hard as expected."

Kushagra's third gold

Elsewhere, Kushagra Rawat added a third gold by winning the 1500m freestyle in 15:41.54. The two record-breaking performances of the day came from Thai swimmer Srisa Ard Jenjira, who lowered the meet's best timings in the women's 50m freestyle and breaststroke events.

The results: Open category: Men: Freestyle: 50m: 1. Virdhawal Khade 22.59s, 2. Khurshidjon Tursunov (Uzb) 22.96; 3. Gharehassanloo Benyamin (Irn) 23.23; 1500m: 1. Kushagra Rawat 15:41.54, 2. Chang Cheng Li Wei (Tpe) 15:49.85, 3. Kittiya Tanakrit (Tha) 16:19.75; Breast-

stroke: 50m: 1. Vladislav Mustafin (Uzb) 27.68, 2. Denis Petrashov (Kyr) 28.35, 3. S.P. Likith 28.38; Butterfly: 100m: 1. Wongcharoen Navaphat (Tha) 54.06, 2. Sajjan Prakash, 54.42, 3. Mhah Qali Bbas (Kuw) 55.10; 400m IM: Klizie Ayman (Syr) 4:30.22, 2. S. Siva 4:32.11, 3. Ketin Nuttapong (Tha) 4:37.11.

Women: Freestyle: 50m: 1. Srisa Ard Jenjira (Tha) 26.16 (NMR), OR: 26.29, Yang Xiaolin (Chn), (2015), 2. Khader Baqlah Talita Bishara (Jor) 26.37, 3. Junkrajang Natthanan (Tha) 26.51; 1500m: 1. Junkrajang Natthanan (Tha) 17:39.93, 2. Shivani Kataria 17:58.16, 3. Teeka Katawan (Tha) 18:00.86; Breast-

stroke: 50m: 1. Srisa Ard Jenjira (Tha) 32.12 (NMR), OR: 32.46, Yekaterina Sadovnik (Kaz), (2009), 2. Vu Thi Phuong Anh (Vie) 33.04, 3. Boonamphai Saovanee (Tha) 33.24; Butterfly: 100m: 1. Kittiya Patarawadee (Tha) 1:02.53, 2. Sounthornchote Suspasuta (Tha) 1:02.57, 3. Liu Pei Ting (Tpe) 1:02.94; 400m IM: 1. Pawapotoke Phiangkhan (Tha) 5:04.97, 2. Wong Ching Lam Athena (Hkg) 5:08.97, 3. Nimdam Kanitta (Tha) 5:12.79.

Mixed 4x100m medley: 1. Thailand 3:39.17, 2. Uzbekistan 3:41.73, 3. India 3:42.56.

Other Indian medallists (number indicates position):

Group I: Boys: Butterfly: 100m: 2. Tanish George 55.98; Group II: Boys: Freestyle: 400m: 1. Shoaan Ganguly 4:07.21; Butterfly: 200m: 2. Utkarsh Patil 2:09.82.

Warriors ride on Maninder's shoulders

PKL

UTHRA GANESAN
JAIPUR

Maninder Singh led from the front, achieving a personal milestone and single-handedly dragging his team past the finish line as Bengal Warriors edged past Telugu Titans 40-39 to go to the top of the table in the seventh season of the ProKabaddi League here on Wednesday.

It was the second consecutive one-point win for Warriors, Maninder scoring a whopping 17 of his team's points and going past 150 touch points for the season, stepping forward every time his team was in trouble.

He first changed the game by failing a raid but taking three defenders out with him in the 14th minute and then effecting an all-out two raids later. Every time Titans



Pulling away: Warriors captain Maninder Singh proved unstoppable against Titans. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

managed to win a point, Maninder would hit back with two of his own.

With a well-rounded defence led by veteran Jeeva Kumar that kept the pressure on the opposition, his attacks made all the difference.

Siddharth Desai tried

gamely to counter Maninder's challenge, scoring 15 points, but despite his best attempts – including a super raid and an all-out of his own – found his team falling short in defence.

Titans, in fact, scored five more raid points than Warriors, most of them coming

in the last 90 seconds, but it was too late.

Contrasting scenario

While Warriors already comfortably qualified for the playoffs, Titans continue to languish in the penultimate spot, with its playoff hopes all but over.

The second match saw Jaipur Pink Panthers start tentatively but race ahead to a comfortable 43-34 win against Puneri Paltan. Panthers, who remained in the seventh spot, still have a chance of qualifying.

The results: Bengal Warriors 40 (Maninder Singh 17, Sukesh Hegde 5) bt Telugu Titans 39 (Siddharth Desai 15, Rajnish 6, Rakesh Gowda 5, Abozar Mohajermighani 5); Jaipur Pink Panthers 43 (Deepak Hooda 12, Deepak Narwal 11, Nilesh Salunke 7) bt Puneri Paltan 34 (Pankaj Mohite 14, Manjeet 8).

ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

India fizzled out after a bright start to lose 62-97 to Korea in the FIBA Women's Asia Cup Division-A basketball tournament at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Wednesday.

India raised expectations of creating a spectacular upset, going up 6-0 and 10-2 in the opening minutes. Jeena Scaria and Anjana Geetha ran the floor and found their range, while the Koreans struggled to find offensive rhythm. At the end of the first quarter, India held a 22-20 lead.

A disastrous second quarter, however, put India out of contention. With tough physical play and double-



Top scorer: Jeena Scaria's efforts were not enough for India to challenge the Koreans. *K. MURALI KUMAR

team defence, Korea snuffed out all scoring opportunities. The home team could score only six points, and lost all momentum. Korea raced to a 44-28 advantage at half-time, and never looked back.

Overall, India put up a far improved show after the 27-103 hammering received at the hands of Japan on Tuesday, but it was not enough to prevent a second straight defeat.

India will have to defeat

Chinese Taipei in its last group match on Thursday in order to avoid the relegation playoff encounter.

Earlier, Japan, China and Australia all registered their second successive victories of the tournament.

The results: Group A: Japan 78 (Maki Takada 19, Ramu Tokashiki 19, Yuki Miyazawa 15) bt Chinese Taipei 49 (Ling Chuan Huang 12); Korea 97 (An Jin 21, Hyeeyoon Bae 14, Leeseul Kang 13, Seul Ku 12, Minjeong Kim 11, Hyejin Park 11, Jihyun Park 10) bt India 62 (Jeena Scaria 14, Anjana Geetha 9).

Group B: China 104 (Mingling Chen 21, Guo Zixuan 19, Y. Li 11, Li Yuan 10, Jiachen Liu 10, Xu Han 10) bt Philippines 57 (Afril Bernardino 10); Australia 82 (Ezi Magbegor 14, Darcee Garbin 13, Abby Bishop 10) bt New Zealand 44 (Antonia Edmondson 12, Micaela Cocks 10).

World Championships an important test for Qatar

Seen as a dress rehearsal to gauge the nation's preparedness for the 2022 FIFA World Cup

ATHLETICS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DOHA

Qatar is preparing to welcome thousands of fans and competitors for the World Athletics Championships starting on Friday, an event seen as a staging post towards the 2022 football World Cup.

The 10-day event in the capital Doha will be a key test ahead of the football extravaganza in the gas-rich Gulf monarchy, although the track and field showcase will play out on a far smaller scale.

World Cup organisers and football fans will be anxious to see if Qatar can overcome problems encountered at a recent World Cup qualifying fixture, stubborn Doha traffic and unfinished public transport to deliver a smooth championships.

An ongoing diplomatic spat between Qatar and several neighbours could threaten to overshadow the competition, as well as possibly dent the numbers of spectators and competitors.



Facelift: The Khalifa International Stadium is spruced up for the mega event. • AP

This is how Qatar has prepared for the tournament in key areas:

Security

Qatari pro-government media has heavily publicised recent training exercises staged by the US FBI in Doha

to equip Qatari officers with "crisis and disaster management" skills.

The city was ranked the world's second safest by CEOWORLD magazine last month behind Abu Dhabi, capital of regional rival the United Arab Emirates.

However the Worlds hosts will be looking to avoid a repeat of chaotic scenes that played out during a World Cup qualifying fixture between Qatar and India earlier this month.

Indian fans with tickets were unable to access the ve-

nue and a surge of fans attempted to storm the ground during half-time as security staff struggled to bring the situation under control.

Venues

Ahead of the opening ceremony, hundreds of volun-

teers were marshalled around Doha's Khalifa stadium by police while technicians hoisted vast lighting rigs into place in the venue's intricate lattice-work roof.

Chief organiser Dahlan al-Hamad said at a recent sports integrity event in Doha that "Qatar is 100 percent ready for the championship - we are very excited".

The stadium, which will host most events, was first opened in 1976 but totally overhauled ahead of a re-launch in 2017 and has since successfully hosted Diamond League events.

The city's Corniche waterfront will be used for the marathon, being staged for the first time at midnight when the temperature will be lower. The route will also host the men's and women's 20 kilometre race walks and the mixed 50 kilometre race walk.

Construction teams worked around the clock to finish assembling the elaborate scaffold towers that line the route's central reservation and will support floodlights for the midnight marathon.

Qatar has invested heavily in transport infrastructure since being named 2022 World Cup hosts in 2010. It now boasts one of the world's largest hub airports and Qatar Airways is currently rated the best by an industry body.

But it is unclear if the multi-billion-dollar metro system's yellow line will be ready in time to shuttle spectators to the two new stations near the Khalifa stadium, al-Aziziyah and Sports City, both of which are shaped like Bedouin tents.

In the absence of a rail option, fans will access the stadium by road.

The area is already popular with motorists and home to a mall, raising the prospect of traffic jams ahead of popular events.

Officials were pushing to overhaul several key bottlenecks and junctions across the city ahead of the high-point of the athletics calendar.

Fans

While the Khalifa stadium can hold 46,000 people, it will be configured for fewer

fans during the World Championships with organisers hoping to attract around 14,000 spectators to the highest profile events.

Tickets 'selling well'

Tickets are "selling well" according to an official, and members of Qatar's expatriate work force - Kenyans and Americans in particular - are expected to turn out.

It remains to be seen though how many fans from neighbouring Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates will make it to Doha for the event.

The three countries, along with Egypt, have enforced a boycott of Qatar since June 2017 and their citizens are technically banned from travelling to the peninsula state.

The Riyadh-led coalition accuses Qatar of backing extremist groups and Iran, charges it denies - raising the spectre that politics could partially overshadow the athletics.

Nonetheless Saudi will send three athletes, Egypt and the UAE one a piece, and Bahrain 14 competitors in total.

Felix eyes a golden track finale

American legend will be aiming to add to an incredible collection of 25 major medals

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DOHA

A warrior on and off the track, Allyson Felix is determined to go out on her own terms as she sets out on the final leg of her glittering career at the World Championships this week.

After 16 years at the pinnacle of her sport, the 33-year-old American has accumulated more World Championship and Olympic honours than any other track and field athlete in history. In Doha, she will be aiming to add to an incredible collection of 25 medals, a dazzling haul that includes six Olympic golds and 11 World Championship titles.

The Worlds mark the start of what is in all probability a year-long lap of honour, with Felix eyeing a golden farewell at what will be her fifth Olympics in Tokyo next year.

Felix will travel as part of the US relay pool as they look to defend the 4x400m title they won in London.

Determined

Felix though says she is not going to be satisfied making up the numbers in the final stages of her career, and is determined to compete in Tokyo next year in the indi-



Chugging on: Allyson Felix says she is not going to be satisfied making up the numbers in the final stages of her career. • FILE PHOTO: AP

dual 400m. "I think it would be crazy for me to say that I was disappointed," Felix said after her sixth place finish at the US trials.

"I have my health, I have my family, I couldn't ask for more than that. And I am able to still do what I love. I want to be back at the Olympics," Felix said. "I want to go out on my terms. A little sacrifice here or there, I believe it will be worth it."

Felix has also emerged as a leading voice for the rights

of women athletes.

In May, she denounced long-time sponsors Nike over the company's maternity practices, calling for greater support for female athletes who take time off from the sport to have children.

"If we have children, we risk pay cuts from our sponsors during pregnancy and afterward," Felix wrote in a *New York Times* editorial. "It's one example of a sports industry where the rules are still mostly made for and by men."

The effects of Felix's criticisms were striking. Nike swiftly changed its policy, vowing to ensure no female athlete is adversely impacted financially by pregnancy.

Felix meanwhile signed a new sponsorship deal with the Athleta leisurewear company. "They're excited to celebrate me as a whole athlete. That's not just my performance, but being a mother and an activist as well," Felix told the *Washington Post* in a recent interview.

Coleman battling sceptics in Doha

In the eyes of many, he is fortunate to be competing after the testing controversy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DOHA

Christian Coleman arrives at the World Championships as the heavy favourite for the 100m gold after an impressive season that has seen him clock a world-leading 9.81s.

But while the 23-year-old has left most of his rivals trailing firmly in his slipstream this year, he may find sceptics harder to shake off.

In the eyes of many, Coleman, the 2017 Worlds silver medallist over 100m, is extremely fortunate to even be competing in Doha.

In August, the athletics world was rocked by news that Coleman had registered three drug-testing "whereabouts" failures in a 12-month period - an offence usually regarded as equivalent to a failed drug test and followed by a ban of up to two years.

Yet with Coleman facing the very real possibility of a suspension that would have barred him from competing at the Worlds and next year's Olympics, the case collapsed this month because of a technicality.

At first glance, it appeared to be an open and shut case.

Coleman had recorded his first whereabouts failure on June 6 last year, before two



Lucky? Though Christian Coleman faced the possibility of a suspension, the case against him collapsed because of a technicality. • FILE PHOTO

more offences on January 16 and April 26. However the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) abruptly withdrew the charges against Coleman on Sept. 2 after a review of the rules regarding how the 12-month window should be calculated.

Under an obscure regulation in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI) guidelines, Coleman's first missed case in June last year should have been backdated to the first day of that quarter, making the formal date of the

first offence April 1, 2018.

'Nobody's perfect'

That meant the dates of the three offences fell outside the required 12-month time frame for a doping offence to have occurred - leaving Coleman in the clear and free to compete in Doha.

Coleman responded to the news by demanding an apology from USADA, accusing the anti-doping body of smearing his reputation and insisting he had always been a clean athlete. "I have never failed a drug test and never will," Coleman said. "They

didn't know their own rules - they expect athletes to know the rules but they can't follow their own."

Coleman explained the three whereabouts failures as simply innocent mistakes, blaming his anxiety and last-minute schedule changes for his failure to update his location information. "People don't realise how easy it is to miss tests," Coleman said. "People out there calling me an idiot, or I've gotta be stupid to miss tests. I don't know what people look athletes at, but nobody's perfect. People make mistakes."

UEFA reveals venue for CL final

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LJUBLJANA

The 2021 UEFA Champions League final will be played in Sain: Petersburg, European football's governing body announced on Tuesday.

The venues for the next three finals were revealed at UEFA's Executive Committee meeting in the Slovenian capital Ljubljana, with Munich being awarded the 2022 showpiece and the 2023 final being given to Wembley.

In awarding the venues for the next three years, UEFA has had to take into account not just the likely demand for match tickets but also the importance of hotel rooms and transport infrastructure.

Meanwhile, UEFA also revealed that the 2021 Europa League final will be played in Seville. The Spanish city was chosen ahead of Georgian capital Tbilisi as the game returns to western Europe, next year's final will go to the Polish city of Gdansk.

The 2021 UEFA Super Cup match - between the winner of the Champions League and Europa League - will be played in Belfast.

A step up for Eziyoda

The Nigeria-born Australian is set for WNBA move

BASKETBALL

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Australian basketball player Eziyoda Magbegor made the headlines earlier this year when she was picked 12th in the WNBA draft, by Seattle Storm.

It has been an interesting journey thus far for the 20-year-old Eziyoda. She was born in New Zealand, and moved to Australia with her Nigerian parents at the age of six. Her interest in basketball was sparked early, when she followed her elder siblings to basketball practice at a local club near Melbourne.

"My parents worked hard, driving us four children everywhere to make sure we played basketball. I am lucky to have great parents. Later on, we played pretty much all over Victoria. Those were some long drives," Eziyoda said here on Wednesday, after Australia put it across New Zealand in the FIBA Women's Asia Cup basketball tournament.

Eziyoda's talents were first noticed in Australia's victorious 2016 FIBA under-17 world championship



Eziyoda Magbegor. • K. MURALI KUMAR

campaign, where she was named the 'Most Valuable Player'. Eziyoda has since bagged professional contracts in the WNBL, first with Canberra Capitals and then with Melbourne Boomers.

While the imminent move to the United States of America is exciting, Eziyoda's immediate focus is on the continental championship here. "Playing in the Asia Cup is a great experience. The WNBA will be a lot more physical, so you have to be ready to match up," she said.

Rohit up to eighth in T20 rankings

Kohli and Dhawan inch closer to top 10

ICC RANKINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Rohit Sharma moved up a place to World No. 8 while Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan inched closer to a top-10 spot in the latest ICC T20 Rankings for batsmen released on Wednesday.

Kohli's unbeaten 72 in the second T20I of the three-match series against South Africa, has seen him gain one spot and reach 11th in

the list while Dhawan moved up three places to 13th after scores of 40 and 36.

Rohit is tied eighth with England's Alex Hales. Both batsmen have 664 points.

In the bowlers' ranking, Washington Sundar is the top-ranked Indian. He moved eight spots to 50th.

The latest rankings take into account the India-South Africa series, the Bangladesh tri-series featuring Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, as well as the Ireland, Scotland, Netherlands tri-series.

FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac on Wednesday said he wants all his players to be fully fit for the World Cup qualifying round match against Bangladesh at Kolkata on Oct. 15.

India had played out a goal-less draw against Qatar in Doha on Sept. 15 in its second match of World Cup qualifiers round 2. India will take on Bangladesh on Oct. 15 in Kolkata. "We still have some uncertainties with



Igor Stimac. • REUTERS

small injury problems with few players. The Bangladesh game is going to be very different from the last one against Qatar. We need all the players to be fully fit, and

ready for the day," Stimac said.

The probables: Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Kamaljit Singh.

Defenders: Pritam Kotal, Nishu Kumar, Rahul Bheke, Sandesh Jhingani, Adil Khan, Narendar, Sarthak Golui, Anas Edathodi-ka, Anwar Ali (Jr.), Mandar Rao Dessai, Subhasish Bose, Jerry Lalrinzuala. **Midfielders:** Udanta Singh, Nikhil Poojary, Vinit Rai, Anirudh Thapa, Abdul Sahal, Raynier Fernandes, Brandon Fernandes, Halicharan Narzary, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Ashique Kuruniyan.

Forwards: Sunil Chhetri, Balwant Singh, Manvir Singh, Farukh Choudhary.

Divij & Sitak bow out

Nagal beats Sakamoto

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
ZHUZHAI (CHINA)

Divij Sharan and Artem Sitak of New Zealand lost 7-6 (2), 6-4 to second seeds Luke Bambridge of Britain and Ben McLachlan of Japan in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the \$1,000,000 ATP tennis tournament here on Wednesday. Divij shared \$4,900 with the Kiwi.

In the Challenger in Buenos Aires, seventh seed Sumit Nagal beat Pedro Sakamoto of Brazil 6-7(2), 6-4, 6-3 in the second round and will play Jose Hernandez-Fernandez of Dominic Republic in pre-quarterfinals.

In the Challenger in France, seventh-seeded Gregoire Barrere of France downed Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-5, 6-4 in the second round.

The results: \$1,000,000 ATP, Zhuhai: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Luke Bambridge (GBR) & Ben Mcachlan (Jpn) bt Artem Sitak (Nzl) & Divij Sharan 7-6 (2), 6-4.

€137,560 Challenger, Orleans: Second round: Gregoire Barrere (Fra) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-5, 6-4. **€54,160 Challenger, Buenos Aires: Second round:** Sumit Nagal bt Pedro Sakamoto (Bra) 6-7(2), 6-4, 6-3.

\$25,000 ITF men, Oliveira De Azemeis, Portugal: First round: Yannick Mertens (Bel) bt Terence Das 6-2, 2-6, 6-2. **\$15,000 ITF men, Nanchang, China: First round:** Anirudh Chandrasekar bt Xian Yao Zhou (Chn) 6-4, 6-1; Ray Ho (Tpe) bt Kaza Vinayak Sharma 6-4, 6-3. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Vasisht Cheruku & P.C. Vignesh bt Taisei Ichikawa & Seita Watanabe (Jpn) 6-4, 6-7(4), [10-5]; Chukang Wang & Zihao Xia (Chn) bt Pol Wattanakul (Tha) & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-2, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo: First round: Dhruv Sunish bt Joshua Luck (RSA) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF women, Anning, China: First round: Sakura Hondo (Jpn) bt Soha Sadiq 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF women, Cairo: First round: Anastasia Zolotareva (Rus) bt Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF women, Johannesburg: First round: Stephanie Kent (USA) bt Sri Vaishnavi Peddi Reddy 7-6(3), 6-2; Ashmitha Easwaramurthi bt Nicole Viljoen (RSA) 6-4, 6-0.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Maria Vittoria Viviani (Ita) & Zeel Desai bt Amonette Theron & Nicole Viljoen (RSA) 6-2, 6-2; Demi Tran (Ned) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi bt Vivian Mayumi Toma (Bra) & Sri Vaishnavi Peddi Reddy 6-2, 6-2.

Marne Dercksen & Isabella Weatherhead (RSA) bt Shannon Cox (RSA) & Snehal Mane 6-1, 2-6, [14-12].

TV PICKS

Rugby 'World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 4 p.m.
India Women vs South Africa Women: 2nd T20I, Star Sports 3, 7 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF



Djokovic to play in Tokyo after shoulder injury

BELGRADE
World No. 1 Novak Djokovic, forced out of the US Open with a shoulder injury, is back in training and will play in Tokyo next week, a member of his press team said. The 32-year-old Serbian star has “started to train and the situation with his shoulder is a bit better”, the spokesperson said. His return means he could play out the season and hold off a challenge to his top ranking from US Open winner Rafael Nadal. AFP



Shayna Jack struggling with drug probe

SYDNEY
Australian swimmer Shayna Jack has claimed she could have to wait nine months for a chance to prove her innocence, after testing positive to a banned substance. Jack, part of Australia's 4x100m freestyle team that set a world record last year, tested positive outside competition to the banned muscle-building drug Ligandrol in June. In her first public comments since meeting with Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) officials in early August, Jack wrote in an *Instagram* post late on Tuesday that the uncertainty surrounding the lengthy drug probe and her swimming future had taken its toll. AFP



Guardiola defends Bernardo over Mendy tweet

PRESTON (UNITED KINGDOM)
Pep Guardiola insisted that Bernardo Silva is not guilty of racism over a tweet the Manchester City star sent to his team-mate Benjamin Mendy. The English Football Association has written to the Premier League champion requesting its observation after Silva posted pictures on social media on Sunday comparing Mendy to the character on a packet of Conquistas chocolates. AFP



Pochettino having a difficult time with his team

COLCHESTER (UNITED KINGDOM)
Mauricio Pochettino claimed his struggling Tottenham side is “unsettled” after it suffered an embarrassing League Cup third-round defeat at fourth-tier Colchester on Tuesday. “When you have an unsettled squad always it's difficult and you lose time and then you need time to recover the time you lose,” he admitted. AFP

Hammer champion Nazarov fails doping test

DOHA
Olympic hammer throw champion Dilshod Nazarov of Tajikistan has been temporarily suspended after one of his samples from the 2011 world athletics championships failed a doping retest, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced on Tuesday. His sample collected during that competition was positive for the steroid turinabol, the AIU said. Nazarov's 2016 title is the only gold medal in Tajikistan's Olympic history. AFP

Advani-Mehta pair wins title

The former takes his tally to 23 while it's the maiden crown for the latter

WORLD SNOOKER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANDALAY (MYANMAR)

The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta overcame a tough Thai team to emerge World champions in the IBSF World snooker team event, here on Wednesday.

This takes Advani's world title tally to a phenomenal 23 while Aditya claimed his maiden at a time when his future is being doubted due to health issues.

For Advani, this win has ensured that his name is now there on every IBSF World title on offer. He had won the world billiards event here last week.

“I'm absolutely excited to win my first World title. All the years of hard work and struggle has finally paid off,” said Mehta.

“It's a dream trip for me



Winning combo: Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta overcame a tough Thai to emerge World champions in the IBSF World snooker team event • COURTESY IBSF

as I return from Myanmar in under 3 weeks with 2 World championship gold medals and a bronze (which he got in the world 6-red snooker event). I'm over the moon to have won the only missing

World title on my list and this win is very special for that reason.

“It's been a long but satisfying outing. Having to switch from billiards to snooker in a day and to come

out on top is a reassurance that specialising in two sports is indeed achievable.”

The result: India-1 beat Thailand-2 5-2 (65-31, 9-69, 74 (55)-8, 21-64, 55-44, 72(52)-23, 83-9).

Coe re-elected IAAF chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DOHA

Britain's Sebastian Coe was re-elected unopposed on Wednesday as president of the IAAF for a second term.

Coe, 62, is a former Olympic and world champion middle-distance runner.

Sumariwalla in IAAF council

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adille Sumariwalla was on Wednesday re-elected as the member of the IAAF Council for a second four-year term. He received 121 votes to get elected as one of the 13 individual members of the IAAF Council.

Indian track and field legend P.T. Usha was presented the Veteran Pin by the world athletics governing body, in recognition of her contribution to the growth of sport. She was one of three from Asia to receive the honour.

Belihu, Gemechu to defend titles

DELHI HALF MARATHON

ANANT KAUR
NEW DELHI

Ethiopia's Andamlak Belihu and Tsehay Gemechu will defend their titles at the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon on October 20th.

Last year Belihu won in 59:18 seconds, but missed out on the course record of 59:06 held since 2014 by compatriot Guye Adola.

Belihu, who won the TCS World 10K in Bengaluru this year, reflected on the last year's race saying “immediately after last year's race I said that I was going to come back to Delhi in 2019 as I had unfinished business with the course record and I am keeping my promise.”

Hagos Gebrihiwet, winner of the 5000M World championships medals in 2013 and 2015, will be the man to watch. The fastest man on view will be Erick Kiptanui, who won the Barcelona Half Marathon earlier this year. Last year, the Kenyan, seventh on the all-time list,



Unfinished business: Andamlak Belihu is confident of bettering the course record. • K. MURALI KUMAR

had won two half marathons in Lisbon and Berlin, where he recorded his personal best of 58:42.

Gemechu, who set the women's course record of 66:50 last year, will be joined by Caroline Kipkirui, the fastest woman in the elite field. The Kenyan-born runner, who now represents Kazakhstan, had set a personal best of 65:07 in the 2018 Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon.

The women's race will al-

so have a promising debutant in Ethiopia's Letesenbet Gidey. She is a two-time winner of the IAAF World Cross Country Championships U-20 race.

The Procam International joint managing director, Vivek Singh, said, “We are excited to have both our defending champions back. The fact that they may be on the start line in Delhi, with medals from Doha to their name, will enhance the events profile and appeal.”

Barca hangs on to beat Villarreal

Victory marred by an injury to Messi

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS
BARCELONA

Barcelona secured a much-needed 2-1 victory at home to Villarreal in La Liga on Tuesday, racing into a two-goal lead inside 15 minutes before hanging on after Santi Cazorla halved the deficit on the stroke of halftime.

The victory was marred by the sight of Barca talisman Lionel Messi, making his first start of the season, receiving lengthy treatment for a blow to his thigh in the first period before being replaced at halftime by Ousmane Dembele.

Antoine Griezmann headed Barcelona in front after six minutes, darting in at the near post to meet a Messi corner.

Brazilian Arthur doubled the lead with a spectacular strike from distance as it appeared the Catalans would put their recent troubles be-



Heady stuff: Antoine Griezmann slipped in between the Villarreal defensive line to score Barcelona's opener. • AFP

hind them.

Cazorla's long-range effort left home keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen red-faced as he misjudged the swerving shot to allow the visitor back into the game before Barcelona held on.

Juventus came from behind to go top of Serie A with a 2-1 win at Brescia on Tuesday as Mario Balotelli marked his return to Italian

top level football.

The results:
La Liga: Valladolid 1 (Plano 12) drew with Granada 1 (Fernandez Luna 42); Real Betis 3 (Moron 45+3, 48, Iglesias 67) bt Levante 1 (Hernani 7); Barcelona 2 (Griezmann 6, Arthur 15) bt Villarreal 1 (Cazorla 44).

Serie A: Verona 0 drew with Udinese 0; Brescia 1 (Donnarumma 4) lost to Juventus 2 (Chancellor 40-og, Pjanic 63).

Sakura for F.K. Irani Memorial Trophy

MYSURU: Sakura, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the F.K. Irani Memorial Trophy (1,400m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Sept. 26). False rails (width about 6.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1. SON OF THE LIGHT PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 1-30 p.m.: 1. Bazinga (3) K. Raghu 60, 2. Je Ne Sais Quoi (4) Irvan 60, 3. Star Binder (2) C. Umesh 59.5, 4. Blackhawk (8) S. Shareef 59, 5. Cherie Amour (7) R. Anand 57.5, 6. South Bell (12) I. Chisty 57.5, 7. Global Butler (10) I. Paswan 56.5, 8. Irish Prince (1) J. Chetan K 56.5, 10. Swiss Tigress (5) Rajesh K 56.5, 11. Natalie (9) Chetan G 55.5 and 12. Sulfana (11) Arshad 55.5.

1. SOUTH BELL, 2. JE NE SAIS QUOI, 3. BLACKHAWK

2. SECUNDERABAD PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2-00: 1. Bold Move (8) S. Shareef 62.5, 2. Lawrence Of Arabia (3) D. Patel 61.5, 3. Brave Lady (10) Jagadeesh 60.5, 4. Back Of Beyond (6) Janardhan P 59, 5. Fotogenic (5) John 59, 6. Red Galileo (12) Arshad 57, 7. Sky Jasmine (9) K. Raghu 57, 8. Casey (4) Antony 56.5, 9. Halfies (2) R. Manish 56, 10. Naval Wrestler (1) N. Jodha 56, 11. Flirting Eyes (1) Chetan G 54.5 and 12. Track Striker (7) Nagarul 53.5.

1. BRAVE LADY, 2. BOLD MOVE, 3. TRACK STRIKER

3. SON OF THE LIGHT PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. Safe Bet (10) R. Anand 62.5, 2. Winning Force (12) M. Prabhakaran 62.5, 3. Air Of Distinction (2) Chetan G 62, 4. Estrella (4) C. Umesh 61.5, 5. Grey Channel (1) T.S. Jodha 61.5, 6. Silver Eclipse (3) Noornabi 61.5, 7. Sun Splash (6) Srinath 61.5, 8. Darahasin (8) P. Surya 61, 9. Raeeszaadi (5) Md. Akram 61, 10. Perfect King (11) John 60.5, 11. Speedster (7) S. Shareef 59.5 and 12. Swiss Admiral (9) Rajesh K 58.

1. SUN SPLASH, 2. PERFECT KING, 3. GREY CHANNEL

4. M.B. APPAYA MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3-00: 1. Navelrock (7) Rajesh Babu 61.5, 2. Dont Trust Anyone (10) Rajesh K 61, 3. Good Earth (3) Kiran Rai 60.5, 4. Admiral Act (5) Santosh K 59.5, 5. Rustic Sunrise (4) Arshad 58.5, 6. Travieso (9) C. Umesh 58.5, 7. Roosevelt (2) Shiva Kumar 57.5, 8. African Emperor (8) N. Jodha 57, 9. Class Above (6) Darshan 56.5 and 10. Clovis (1) Md. Mushraf 54.

1. TRAVIESO, 2. GOOD EARTH, 3. RUSTIC SUNRISE



Advancing: P. Kashyap was the lone Indian to survive the first round. • FILE PHOTO: RAJEEV BHATT

when he conceded the match to fifth-seeded Anders Antonsen of Denmark due to an ankle injury.

London Olympic bronze medallist Saina was trailing 21-19, 18-21 and 1-8 against South Korea's Kim Ga Eun when she was forced to retire.

Saina's husband and per-

sonal coach Kashyap said she retired because of gastroenteritis problem.

“It seems she had a relapse of the gastroenteritis that bothered her early in the year. She was feeling dizzy and vomited yesterday. In fact, she went to the stadium straight from the hospital,” he said.

Karthik, Vignesh star in TN's massive win

Vignesh and Mohammed make short work of Services

S. DIPAK RAGAV
JAIPUR

Skipper Dinesh Karthik led from the front with a 91-ball 95 (8x4, 1x6) to power Tamil Nadu to a massive 212-run win over Services in the Elite Group C match of Vijay Hazare Trophy here at the Sai wai Mansingh Stadium on Wednesday.

He was ably supported by C. Hari Nishanth (73, 71b, 7x4, 1x6) and later K. Vignesh (five for 41) as Services was bowled out 82, chasing Tamil Nadu's score of 294.

Spot of bother

Put in to bat, under gloomy conditions following slight drizzle just before the start of play, Services kept chipping away with wickets to leave TN in a spot of bother at 54 for four by the 15th over.

Openers Abhinav Mukund and N. Jagadeesan fell cheaply, both caught behind – the latter playing a loose shot away from the body – off pacer Varun Choudhary.

R. Sai Kishore was promoted at No. 3 to blunt the new ball and the left-arm spinner did just that playing out 40 balls for his 15 before he and B. Aparajith fell in quick succession.

Steadying things

Karthik and Hari Nishanth then steadied things in the middle with risk-free cricket, putting on 144 runs for the fifth wicket. The duo ran hard between the wickets making good use of the big outfield.

The two batsmen never gave a chance to the opposition but still managed to find boundaries regularly through safe shots like late cuts behind point or by working off the pads to the

leg side.

Post his half-century, Hari started to cut loose, going after left-arm pacer Raj Bahadur, hitting him for a beautiful six over long-on, followed by a boundary.

He fell to Arun Sharma, trying to clear mid-off only for Diwesh Pathania take a brilliant catch running behind.

Then Karthik too went after Bahadur with a six and four to move to 24 before he hit one straight to mid-wicket off Rajat Paliwalin, in an attempt to accelerate.

M. Mohammed then finished off in style with a cameo, hitting four huge sixes, including two maximums and a boundary off the last over in his unbeaten 36 off just 15 balls.

In reply, apart from the first five overs when four quick boundaries came, Services batsman looked at the sea. Sai Kishore got the first breakthrough, trapping opener Ravi Chauhan leg-before off the first ball of his only over before Natarajan took care of the other opener Nakul Verma. After that Vignesh and Mohammed cleaned up the rest of the batting line-up.

While Vignesh had batsmen either edging to the 'keeper or driving to covers, Mohammed's pace was too hot to handle with two batsmen having their stumps knocked back.

Vignesh then wrapped the innings, picking his fifth wicket trapping Varun Choudhary leg-before.

The scores: Tamil Nadu 294 for eight in 50 overs (Dinesh Karthik 95, C. Hari Nishanth 73, M. Mohammed 36 n.o.) bt Services 82 in 19.1 overs (K. Vignesh five for 41, M. Mohammed three for 10).



Guiding hand: Dinesh Karthik was in his element again, scoring 95 off 91 deliveries. • PTI

Vijay Hazare Trophy scores

ELITE Group A (Bengaluru):

Mumbai v Jharkhand, Hyderabad v Goa, Kerala v Chhattisgarh. *Matches washed out*

Group B (Vadodara): Baroda 91 for eight in 20.3 overs (Krunal Pandya 36, Shivam Mavi three for 9) v Uttar Pradesh. *No result*

■ Haryana 154 in 32.4 overs (Pranod Chandila 58, Navdeep Saini four for 36) v Delhi 6 for no loss in 1.3 overs. *No result*

■ Punjab 169 for nine in 42 overs (Anmol Malthotra 36, Rishi Dhawan four for 43) v Himachal 22 for one in 8 overs. *No result*

■ Assam 324 for three in 50 overs (Swarupam Purkayastha 163, Gokul Sharma 57, Sibankar Roy 79 n.o.) bt Mizoram 211 for six in 50 overs (Abrar Kazi 78 n.o., Lalhmangaiha 36, Parvez Ahmed 38, Roshan Alam four for 45)

Thursday's matches (9 a.m. start)

Group A (Bengaluru): Andhra v Goa, Kerala v Saurashtra, Karnataka v Jharkhand

Maharashtra v Uttar Pradesh, Punjab v Vidarbha, Odisha v Haryana

■ Tripura 268 for eight in 50 overs (Tanmay Mishra 102) bt Madhya Pradesh 86 for six in 26 overs (Rajat Patidar 41) by VJD method

PLATE (Dehradun): Uttarakhand 4 for no loss in 0.1 overs v Chandigarh. No result

■ Meghalaya 107 in 26.1 overs (Sagar Trivedi four for 18) lost to Pondicherry 108 for six in 23.5 overs (Suresh Kumar 37, Abhay Negi four for 17)

■ Assam 324 for three in 50 overs (Swarupam Purkayastha 163, Gokul Sharma 57, Sibankar Roy 79 n.o.) bt Mizoram 211 for six in 50 overs (Abrar Kazi 78 n.o., Lalhmangaiha 36, Parvez Ahmed 38, Roshan Alam four for 45)

India beats Sri Lanka

SAFF C'SHIP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KATHMANDU

Gurkirat Singh's brace helped India thump Sri Lanka 3-0 and move to the semifinals of the SAFF U-18 Championship football here on Wednesday. Aman Chetri scored the third in what was India's last league match.

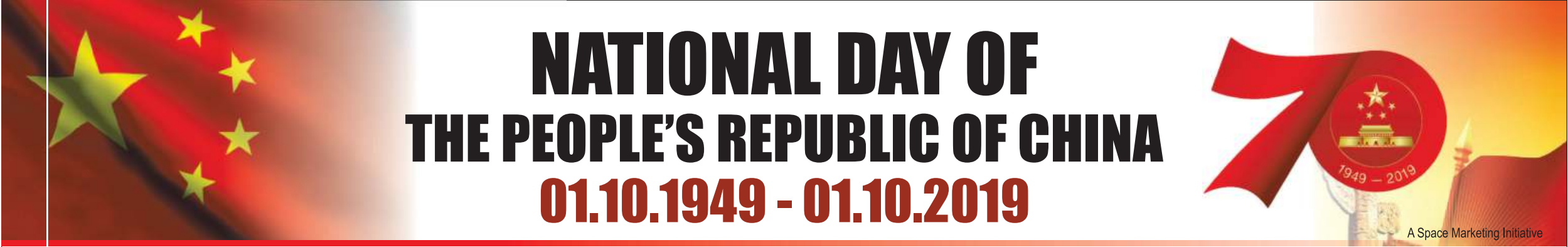
India was held goalless by Bangladesh in its opening match.

Sanvi moves into semifinals

SPORTS BUREAU
CHANDIGARH

Top seed Sanvi Ahluwalia recovered from a slow start to beat Hannah Nagpal 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 in the girls' quarter-finals of the AITA Super series junior tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex here on Wednesday. **The results (Under-18): Boys: Quarterfinals:** Krishan Hooda bt Jitin Kumar Chetry 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; Shashikanth Rajput bt Aryan Thakur 6-1, 6-3; Maitreya Rana bt Aditya Balda 6-4, 6-1; Ajay Singh bt Manveer Singh 6-3, 7-6(3).

Doubles: Semifinals: Hooda & Bhupender Dahiya bt Gurustat Singh Makkar & Samar Bir Singh Sidhu 7-6(3), 6-2; Balda & Rajput bt Bhavnish Sangwan & Tejas Kartikey 6-2, 6-2. **Girls: Quarterfinals:** Sanvi Ahluwalia bt Hannah Nagpal 4-6, 6-2, 6-1; Harshita Bangeera bt Harmoor Sidhu 6-1, 6-0; Kavya Khirwar bt Vanya Arora 6-2, 6-4; Harleen Kaur bt Amarjot Kaur Bundhel 6-0, 6-2. **Doubles: Semifinals:** Harleen & Sanvi bt Leera Raju & Amarjot Kaur Bundhel 6-1, 6-1; Kavya & Hannah bt Simran Pritham & Pawandeep Kaur 6-1, 6-2.



Ambassador's Message

H.E. Sun Weidong

October 1st this year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. This is a moment of great historical significance. Over the past 70 years since the founding of new China, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people have worked hard and forged ahead defying all difficulties. One miracle after another have been created. The future and destiny of the Chinese nation have been fundamentally changed. China's economy has enjoyed sustained, sound and steady growth, the rule of law system has been improved, major achievements have been made in ethnic unity and progress, and remarkable progress has been made in promoting ecological civilization. People's living standards have been constantly improved, gross national income per person stood close to \$10,000 in 2018, and over 850 million people have been lifted out of poverty. China has blazed a path of socialism with Chinese characteristics and achieved great transformations from standing up and growing rich to becoming strong.

Over the 7 years since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the CPC Central Committee with comrade Xi Jinping at the core held high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, united and led the whole party and people of all ethnic groups across the country and pursued coordinated progress in the five-sphere integrated plan and balanced progress in the four-pronged comprehensive strategy. Historic changes have taken place in the party and various causes of the nation. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. China is now the world's second largest economy, largest trader in goods and largest holder of foreign exchange reserves. China has become the largest trading partner of over 130 countries and regions. China accounted for more than 30 percent of global economic growth, making it the most significant driving force. Guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the Chinese people are united and working tirelessly to achieve the two centenary goals and realize the Chinese dream of great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

In the face of complicated and profound changes in the international landscape, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, China has stayed committed to the path of peaceful development, resolutely safeguarded China's sovereignty, security and development interests, advocated multilateralism and economic globalization, promoted the building of a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind. China has contributed its wisdom and solutions for world peace, stability and development.

China and India are neighbors linked by mountains and rivers, partners of win-win cooperation and friends hand in hand on their way forward. As we are both major developing countries, our two peoples have supported each other in pursuing national independence and development and helped each other in upholding global free trade. In recent years, China-India relations have maintained a positive development momentum. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the "hometown diplomacy" and held a historic Informal Summit in Wuhan, China, taking the closer developmental partnership between the two countries to a new height and putting it on the track of sound and stable development. China is India's second largest trading partner in goods, and India is China's largest trading partner in South Asia. More than 1,000 Chinese companies are doing business in India. They have put in a total investment of \$8 billion and created over 200,000 local jobs. Over two-thirds of Indian companies operating in China are making steady profits. China and India together account for nearly 40% of the world's population. There is huge potential and broad space for cooperation between us.

Next year will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and India. Let us make full use of the opportunity of celebrating the 70th anniversary and continue to implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, focus on cooperation, seek common development and write a new chapter in China-India relations.

Glorious Journey of the People's Republic of China

The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Through seventy years of hard work, the Communist Party of China has united and led the Chinese people on a glorious journey. The Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation: it has stood up, grown rich and is becoming strong. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has been established, developed and improved. The Chinese people have made a great leap from inadequate food and clothing to moderate prosperity. The Chinese nation, with an entirely new posture, now stands tall and firm in the East.

Standing Up of the Chinese People

With Mao Zedong as their main representative, the Chinese Communists led the Chinese people to secure a victory in the new democratic revolution, founded the PRC and established the basic socialist system. The photo shows at 3 p.m., on October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong announcing the establishment of the PRC's central people's government during the founding ceremony.

On October 1, 1949, the first five-star red flag was raised in Tian'anmen Square in Beijing. The Chinese people, who had experienced bitter struggle since modern times, finally saw the dawn of the rebirth of the Chinese nation. With the birth of the PRC, the Chinese people became masters of the country,



The development of Pudong in Shanghai is a highlight of China's reform and opening up. The farmland in the past has been turned into the Lujiazui International Financial Center dotted with high-rise buildings. The photo taken on June 27, 2018 shows the full view of Pudong new area.

society and their own destiny. They began to embark on a great journey of realizing a strong and prosperous country, national rejuvenation and people's happiness with full pride.

Spring Breeze of Reform and Opening-up

In 1978, marked by the third plenary session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, China started the historical process of reform and opening-up.

The reform and opening-up is a great awakening of the Communist Party of China, and a great revolution in the history of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation. It is the great revolution that has brought unprecedented and profound changes to China, making reform and opening-up the most distinctive feature of contemporary China. Reform and opening-up is a key move to determine the destiny of contemporary China, and to achieve the two centenary goals and the great

Forging Ahead in New Era

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core has united the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to hold high the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics and has been guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. It has promoted the coordinated implementation of the five-sphere integrated plan including economic, political, cultural, social and ecological advancement and the four-pronged comprehensive strategy consisting of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, deepening reform in all areas, advancing law-based governance and exercising full and rigorous governance over the Party. Historic achievements in reform, opening-up and

cooperation, and socialist modernization have been made, historic shifts in the cause of the Party and the country have been promoted, and the socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. China adheres to the vision of peace, development, and win-win cooperation and constantly contributes Chinese wisdom and strength to foster world peaceful development. China and the people across the world will build a community with a shared future for mankind and jointly create a bright future for all!



The Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation opened in Beijing on April 26, 2019. Nearly 5,000 guests from more than 150 countries and 90 international organizations attended the forum. The photo shows Chinese President Xi Jinping and foreign leaders walking into the venue of the forum's opening ceremony.

China today stands at a new historical starting point. Though great achievements have been made, there are still many mountains to scale and many shoals to navigate. The Communist Party of China and the Chinese people will continue forging ahead on the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics while comprehensively deepening reform, pursuing high-quality development, further opening up, committing to peaceful development, promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, creating more brilliant Chinese miracles in the new era, and making greater contribution to the cause of human progress.

Seven Decades of China's Achievements

Economy

China's economy has accelerated over the past seven decades, with gross domestic product rising at an average annual rate of 8.1 percent. From 1979 to 2018, China's economy grew by 9.4 percent annually on average, much higher than the world's average economic growth of 2.9 percent. In 1952, China's GDP was 30 billion U.S. dollars, while in 2018, its GDP reached 13.61 trillion U.S. dollars, an increase of 452.6 times. In 1978, China's GDP ranked 11th in the world, while in 2010, it became the second largest economy in the world. Gross national income per person reached 9,732 U.S. dollars in 2018, higher than the level seen in middle-income countries. Forex reserves reached 3.07 trillion U.S. dollars at the end of 2018, topping the world for the 13th straight year, while it stood at only 108 million dollars at the end of 1952.

Politics

With decades of hard work, socialism with Chinese characteristics has crossed the threshold into a new era. The Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation and come to embrace the brilliant prospects of rejuvenation. We have actively developed socialist democracy and advanced law-based governance. The path, the theory, the system, and the culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics have kept developing, blazing a new trail for developing countries to achieve modernization. The overarching task of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics is to realize socialist modernization and national rejuvenation, and that on the basis of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, a two-step approach should be taken to build China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful by the middle of the century.

Culture

In 2019, China's total number of world cultural heritage sites reaches 55 ranking first in the world. China has yielded fruitful results in cultural exchanges and communication with other countries. By the end of 2017, China had signed

cultural cooperation agreements with 157 countries, and the number of cultural exchange plans totaled nearly 800. Overseas Chinese cultural centers and Confucius Institutes, traditional Chinese cultures such as Chinese acrobatics, martial arts, calligraphy, Beijing Opera and Tai Chi have been further introduced to the world. By 2017, over 4,000 various cultural events took place in Chinese cultural centers in foreign countries, and over 8 million people were directly involved. By the end of 2017, 525 Confucius Institutes and 1,113 Confucius classrooms had been established in 146 countries and regions.

Society

The 1.3 billion Chinese are no longer threatened by food or clothing shortages, more than 850 million Chinese are out of poverty, 770 million are employed, nine-year compulsory education is provided across the country, and China's universal health care system and social security system lead the world in scale. Life expectancy in 1949 was around 35 years, and it rose to 77 years in 2018. Maternal and infant mortality also decreased substantially, from 1,500 per 100 thousand and 200 per thousand 70 years ago, respectively, to 18.3 per 100 thousand and 6.1 per thousand in 2018, both meeting the Millennium Development Goals ahead of schedule. The number of impoverished people dropped from 770 million in 1978 to 16.6 million in 2018, and the poverty rate dropped from 97.5% to 1.7%. By the end of 2020, we will have taken all rural residents living below the current poverty line out of poverty, putting an end to absolute poverty in our country and creating a miracle in the history of development and poverty reduction. We are also on course to attain the first centenary goal by 2020, i.e. completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Ecological Civilization

Implementing its new concept of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, China has exerted intensive efforts to treat pollution with the enforcement of much stricter environmental laws and problem-oriented environmental supervision. China has gained remarkable achievements in such fields as prevention and treatment of air and water pollution,

ecological construction, low-carbon development, energy conservation and emission reductions. China's carbon dioxide emission per 10,000 yuan (nearly \$1,500) of GDP declined 4 percent in 2018. By the end of 2018, China's installed capacity for renewable energy reached 728,000 megawatts, up 12 percent on a year-on-year basis. China had contributed to at least 25 percent of the increase in the global green leaf area since the early 2000s. Over the past 40 years, China's forest coverage rate has increased nearly 10 percent to 21.66 percent. China is home to the world's largest man-made forest in scale.

Diplomacy

China's diplomacy has established a fine tradition with distinctive features, including independence as the cornerstone of China's foreign policy, concern for the common good of humanity, pursuit of equity and justice, commitment to win-win outcomes, the mission of facilitating domestic development, and dedication to serving the Chinese people. Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is the fundamental guideline of China's diplomatic work in the new era. China firmly safeguards national sovereignty, security and development interests, and devotes itself to the joint construction of a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind with other countries. China is moving closer to the center stage of the world as a widely recognized promoter of world peace, contributor to global development and upholder of international order. China has dispatched 40,000 peacekeepers to around 30 UN peacekeeping operations since 1990, the most among all the five permanent UN Security Council members. It is also the second largest donor country for UN peacekeeping missions. China is playing an increasingly prominent role in providing constructive solutions to resolving international hotspot issues. China has been promoting the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to improve connectivity and cooperation on a transcontinental scale. China is firm in upholding the multilateral trading system and advancing trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. China has deeply engaged in regional and sub-regional cooperation, and concluded 17 free trade agreements with 25 countries and regions.

Over 1000 Chinese enterprises continue to invest and contribute to India's growth, deepening economic ties.

CHAMBER OF CHINESE ENTERPRISES IN INDIA